









In the Fanuary issue

News & views

Dear Santa, please can we have Thonet's latest chair? Plus a solution for all the corks we've been popping this party season...

119 DESIGNER PROFILE

Style guru Emma Sims Hilditch on her 'tranquil' contemporary look

162 #PLANET LIVINGETC

A peek at the team putting the issue together

$\begin{array}{c} Shopping \\ \textbf{27 TREND} \textit{ Checks, please} \text{ Go mad for plaid!} \end{array}$

29 EDITED CHOICE Divine decs

From cute and kitsch birds to the sleekly architectural

33 SHOP ETC Christmas crackers

Ensure the festivities go off with a bang

34 EDITED CHOICE Tree toppers

Stunners for that all-important finishing touch

36 EDITED CHOICE Designer games

Put away your tablets and consoles, board games are back!

37 DESIGN CLASSIC While we all know champagne comes from France, did you realise the coupe glass is British?

65 SHOP FOCUS Festive dining

All the wow factor you need to set the scene for Xmas dinner

135 EDITED CHOICE Kids' wallpapers

Prints tots and teens will love

136 EDITED CHOICE *Range cookers* Multitasking stoves to help at the busiest time of the year

Modern homes

38 SHOW STOPPER

Floor-to-ceiling leadlights, stunning parquet floors - Laura and Gary restore their Thirties house to its sparkling former glory

72 RAW AND WILD

Scott and Monique turn a deserted old hair salon into a cutting-edge house with the perfect cut and finish

82 WELCOME TO THE HOUSE OF FUN

Gregarious Jim and Chloe get their funked-up Georgian party pad ready for the festive season

90 CABIN FEVER

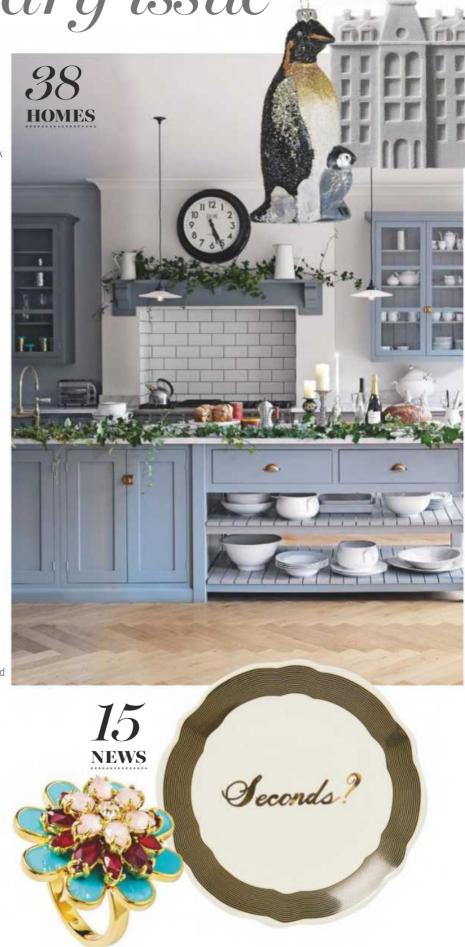
Prepare to enter Guido's cool concrete ski lodge for Swiss chalet style like you've never seen...

100 HEART OF GLASS

Arun and Susanne combine design and cultural traditions from Germany, England and India for a family Christmas to remember



STORIES Our cover stories are highlighted by a spot COVER PHOTOGRAPHY Paul Massey





Design ideas

51 DECORATING FOCUS *Putting on the glitz* Add a decadent kick to the proceedings with a shot of Art Deco glamour. Splash out on glittering golds, rich teals and extravagant purples, plus lashings of fairy lights

CONTENTSetc

116 DESIGN NEWS This month's product launches and hi-tech innovations

123 PROJECT INSPIRATION 9 stylish solutions for kids' spaces Fun and innovative ideas for your children's zones, be they budding artists, sports stars or somewhere in-between

137 STYLE CLASSIC Six-panel front door Why the elegant Georgian design has lost none of its kerb appeal

Food & travel

Last-minute gift-buying trip required? Check in to one of these glam bolt holes in the world's hottest shopping meccas, from the Mandarin Oriental in Milan to The Edition in New York and London's new Zetter Townhouse

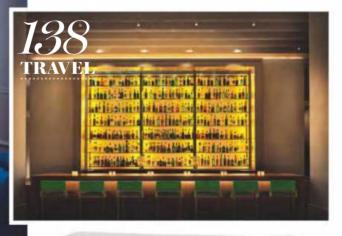
142 PARTY PIECES

Donna Hay's delicious witty twists will impress at your cheese and wine soirée

Offers & info 12 SUBSCRIBE FOR TOP OFFERS

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Contributors



Amanda Koster Stylist, Putting on the glitz

WHICH THREE WORDS SUM YOU UP? Mother, friend, creative.

WHO IS YOUR DESIGN HERO? Faye Toogood and Ilse Crawford – they both use beautiful design to create functional pieces.

WHAT'S BEEN YOUR MOST UNUSUAL SHOOT SO FAR? In a wet suit, throwing

furniture in a pool, on a photographer's shoulders to weigh him down.

WHAT WOULD YOU DO WITH A SPARE £100? Go out for food. I live in Brixton, so I'm spoiled.
WHICH INTERIORS ACCESSORY CAN'T YOU RESIST

BUYING? White ceramics from old English potteries or West German textured vases. I need more!



Fraser Marr
Photographer, Heart of glass
WHICH THREE WORDS SUM YOU UP?
Confident, experimental, individual.
HOW DOES YOUR HOME MAKE YOU FEEL?
Like stopping work and maybe playing my
guitar and having a glass of wine.
WHAT'S BEEN YOUR MOST UNUSUAL
SHOOT SO FAR? I arrived at a shoot in a far-off

country to find soldiers with machine guns pointing at me – my kit had been mistaken for bomb-making equipment. *IN ANOTHER LIFE, YOU'D BE...* A guitarist, with no guns pointed at me.

WHAT WOULD YOU DO WITH A SPARE £100? Buy a couple of drinks, have a little fun.

WHAT IS YOUR NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION? To stay busy and get better at what I do.



Nicola Rowe Writer/picture editor, Nine stylish solutions for kids' spaces

WHICH THREE WORDS SUM YOU UP?
Spirited, tenacious, enthusiastic.
WHICH INTERIORS ACCESSORY COULD
YOU NOT LIVE WITHOUT? The cashmere
throw that has taken permanent residence on
my sofa. Whatever the weather might be, I'm

always under it.

WHAT'S YOUR MOST TREASURED ITEM? A photo of my family on the beach in Cornwall, taken when I was five. It captures a moment of pure summer elation.

AND YOUR GREATEST PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVEMENT? Establishing myself as a freelancer. I'm used to being part of a team, but so far, me, myself and I are getting along just fine. WHAT IS YOUR NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION? To try to put into practice my New Year's resolutions from last year...

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Dreaming up festive fantasies

is half the fun of the run-up to Christmas - do you hanker after spending the holidays in a snowy log cabin, snuggled under furs in front of a roaring fire, or is your vision more decadent and glamorous, with a serious party vibe? Well, in this issue, the **Livingetc** team was able to explore a range of perfect Christmas scenes, from a glittering, Savoy Hotelinspired decorating scheme (page 51), right through to a remote and minimalist snowbound cabin in the shadow of the Alps (page 90).

And for those of us (me included) whose wish list is a little more prosaic and (this year, at least) more stay-at-home, we've created our edit of the coolest last-minute buys you'll need to create your own special space. From the best tree toppers (page 34) and tableware (page 65) to designer games – including the chicest jigsaw puzzle I've ever seen – (page 36), we've got all those little details covered.

So, wherever you're spending the holiday season, I hope it lives up to your fantasies and, from the team and me - *cue music* - we wish you a merry Christmas and a happy New Year!

Swame

Suzanne Imre, EDITOR

ps We've teamed up with leading interiors website **Clippings. com** to launch **The Livingetc Edit** - our selection of the most gorgeous pieces for your home. From designer lighting to cute egg cups, we've hand-picked the best items for stylish modern living. Go to **clippings.com/livingetc** and start shopping!

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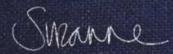
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Suzanne Imre, EDITOR

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Light source

Find standout lighting, furniture and accessories from our new venture, The Livingetc Edit with Clippings.com. From big-name designers to up-and-coming stars, we've selected the coolest pieces you simply have to see, such as this Solo/ Disc pendant by Hungarian brand Intueri Light. We'll be adding 50 items every month, so stay tuned.

£249 (clippings.com/livingetc)



CURVE APPEAL

Historic brand Thonet is known for its bentwood furniture and its latest range sees chair aficionado Martino Gamper getting creative with the curves. Five shapely pieces form the backrest and legs of his Post Mundus design, mirroring each other, so you're never entirely sure which way is up. Approx £590 (gebruederthonet vienna.com)

For fabrics with a festive feel, choose rich tones plus a dash of glam. With its silvery sheen punctuated by shadowy circles, Inoui 3634 0412 silk-mix, top left, by Casamance (£131.10 per m, casamance. com) exudes opulence. Team with Matthew Williamson's Rumba F6782-12 chenille at Osborne & Little, left (£69 per m, osborne andlittle.com), for an indulgent look.

WINE-DEER

Create your own Donner and Blitzen with Habitat's creative answer to all those discarded corks. The nifty little Harlane Animal novelty cork set includes miniature antlers and legs poised to be pinned as soon as you hear the pop. Any excuse to open another bottle! £6 (habitat.co.uk)



STAY TUNED

Whimsical illustrator Kristjana S Williams has decorated Fortnum & Mason's Christmas range with her beguiling, surreal world. On top of looking and tasting great, these biscuits are also pleasing to the ears – give the tin a twist and it'll chime out a rendition of Jingle Bells while merrily rotating. That's a gift that just keeps on giving. £14.95 (fortnumandmason.com)



Does of the biggest trends of the year has to be personalisation – how is anyone supposed to know what belongs to them unless it's clearly marked? Anthropologie's latest typographical offering includes embellished lettered purses, illustrative monogrammed plates and these Art Deco-esque gilded alphabet glasses. There's never been a more stylish way to ensure you're not drinking someone else's G&T. £14 each (anthropologie.com)



Plate up

Any more for any more? Don't mind if we do, especially if the roast potatoes are served on this side plate by New York brand Fishs Eddy in collaboration with West Elm. The vintage-look metallic detailing is inspired by classic American eateries and hotels.

£10 (westelm.co.uk)



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DESIGN CRUSH

This month, we're lusting after...

notonthehighstreet.com



products, it's fair to say that notonthehighstreet.com could only exist online. A beautifully curated digital marketplace, it brings together over 5,000 small creative businesses from across the UK. With all sorts of goods on offer, from one-off pieces of furniture to handmade decorative details, you can give your home a unique, artisan feel in just a few clicks. THE LOWDOWN... The company took shape at the kitchen table of Holly Tucker and Sophie Cornish in 2006, when the duo decided to hunt out the most original pieces by independent creatives and bring them together on one site.

Notonthehighstreet.com launched with 100 labels on board, with most of the makers getting artistic in the evenings after their day jobs. Ten years on, notonthehighstreet.com is a global, award-winning enterprise and one of the UK's fastest growing e-commerce businesses. It's outgrown its offices four times, but that kitchen table's never far away – it's now used

in one of the meeting rooms.

WHY WE LOVE IT... A one-stop shop for last-minute Christmas gifts, you're guaranteed to find something extraordinary to put under the tree. The site's become known for its plethora of personalised products – baubles, stockings, rocking chairs or wine glasses, you can get pretty much anything with a bespoke message on it. NEED TO KNOW... The brand's Make Awards, now in its second year, celebrates the most creative, original products and sellers across all categories, from Best 'Wow' Product (this year, a chocolate cheeseboard by Chocolate on Chocolate) to Social Success of the Year (currently Yvonne Ellen's Gin teapot, above). The winners reflect a cross section of the site's clever and inventive products.

STAR BUY... What else for Christmas but Brussels sprouts – albeit the chocolate variety? Pick up a personalised box of hand-rolled 'veg' by Edinburgh gift-making company Quirky Gift Library for a discussion-worthy stocking filler – last year, approx 56,000 of them were sent out.

.........

SHELF LIFE

Ikea's Ikornnes table mirror may look simple, but it has a clever trick up its sleeve. When you hang it on a wall, its stand swings down to become a small shelf. Smart. £19 (ikea.com)

Go hang

decoration' cries new wallpaper brand Feathr. which has made it its mission to champion up-and-coming designers and give them metres of blank canvas to work on. Its ever-growing library of patterns comes from independent artists from around the globe. You thought your wall was just a wall? Turns out, it's a gallery space. Plato wallpaper in Green by Aoi Yoshizawa, £89 for a 10m roll, including free paste (feathr.com)



Cover art

Stand out from
the crowd in this
mind-blowing House
of Hackney X William
Morris coat. Happily,
it's made of faux fur
and has its wow-factor
stripes accented with a
re-imagined Arts and
Crafts Seaweed print

lining. Portia coat, £425 (houseofhackney.com)



SNAP, CRACKLE, POP

There's only one thing to do come midnight on 31 December – let off a celebratory rocket. For an indoor-friendly option, try these paper ones by Meri Meri. Pull the tails to be showered in confetti, new year fortunes, hats and, of course, stick-on moustaches. £18 for a set of six (thehambledon.com)



Sweet dreams

Let young imaginations run wild with this House bed by French design company Bonnesoeurs. The beautifully minimal beech frame is just waiting to be decorated and transformed into a den, a boat, a castle... £485; plus mattress, £121 (smallable.com)

Livingetc LOVES

Clip clop

Pimp your pumps with Cleo B's collection of shoe clips, which include metal bows, feathery tassels and fluffy pompoms in every imaginable shade. Work it Rudolph style in red. Savile Bow clip in Gold, £46 per pair; and Pompom clips, from £29 per pair (cleob.com)

TOTALLY FLOORED

This vivacious rug is the result of a collaboration between vibrant textile brand A Rum Fellow and flooring specialist Floor_Story. Inspired by a trip to Guatemala, the patterns reference the glorious colours and traditional weaves of Mayan culture, zooming in on intricate patterns and reinterpreting them in a modern, exaggerated scale. Kaya wool rug, from £800 (arumfellow.com)



You're spoiled for choice with Next Home's new range of sofas. Ninety five fabric options, 30 styles, multiple choices of legs – that's maths we can't even do. You'll be 100 per cent comfy, though. Sonoma II sofa, from £699 (next.co.uk)



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Matt White Wood Venetian

Bring home the style this season with made-to-measure window dressings from Hillarys. With a wide variety of blinds, curtains and shutters to choose from, in a stunning array of colours and designs, we're sure to have the perfect window covering for you and your home. If you're inspired by Scandinavian design, choose one of our Venetian blinds in classic white - the elegant, pared-back design will create a minimal look that will suit any room in the home.



PETAL POWER

Kate Spade New York's latest jewellery collection is a playful mix of sugary colours, cute motifs and pretty flowers. The ruby red, turquoise and powderpink petals on this Bold Blooms ring will offset your party manicure perfectly this season. \$55 (katespade.co.uk)

Chalet chic

Sumptuous sheepskins, exposed wood, luxe whites and gold – Jonathan Adler has headed to the mountains with his new collection. With more than 250 launches in furniture, lighting and accessories, you'll find everything you need to live the white Christmas lifestyle, even if we don't have any snow this year. Aspen sofa, £3,950; Monterey cocktail table, £995; and Caracas chandelier, £2,250 (uk.

jonathanadler.com)

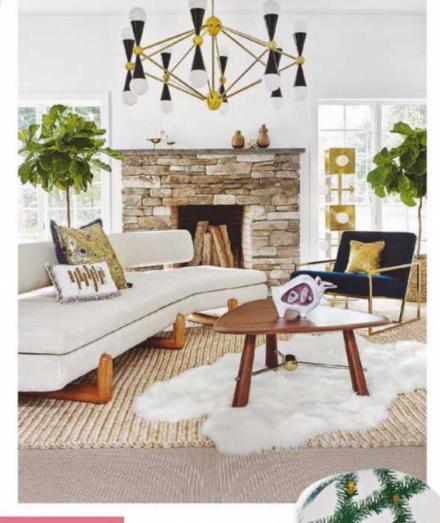
GLAS ACT

Part sculptural objet, part storage furniture, Philippe Starck's Boxinbox units for Glas Italia are made from extra-light glass, with the internal sections finished in an array of bright hues.

Sitting on a polished stainless-steel base, the sharp lines and panes of colour are reflected, adding to the illusion of weightlessness and balance. From £1,909 (glasitalia.com)







Spring forward

Paint by Conran's spring/
summer 2016 range is an
elegant, harmonious affair.
The names such as Winter
Rocket, Dandelion Puff and
Viola's Bloom conjure up
images of nature, while the
palette contains striking
splashes of contemporary
colour. Viola's Bloom
emulsion, £36 for 21
(paintbyconran.com)

WRAP STAR

Swathe your Christmas gifts in fir garlands the easy way with this ribbon from Rockett St George. Printed on to satin, the foliage is dotted with tiny gold and silver stars and baubles – it will make for a jazzy finishing touch in just a simple bow. Christmas garland ribbon, £3.50 for 5m (rockettstgeorge.co.uk)

Snow station

Transform your space into a chalet-style retreat with some casually positioned wooden skis next to the fire. Did someone say it was time for après? Vintage skis, \$85 (nordichouse.co.uk)



A decoration and activity in one, this cardboard Leaf Wreath comes flat-packed – just choose whether to keep the oak, pine and maple leaves plain, or get out paint, glitter and glue for something more unusual. £35 (rastallanddaughters.com)

HEAD LIGHTS

With their heads popping up and peering around, these glittering deer tea lights will add a whimsical touch to your table. At £6 for a set of six, it's tempting to buy an entire herd — much easier than bringing yourself to actually light the little darlings.

(iohnlewis.com)





ONE TO WATCH... Get the lowdown on a future design star



Jo Davies

 $\it{WHO?}$ A ceramicist producing simple, tactile tableware, vases and lighting from her studio in east London.

sections with units bought today and they'll link seamlessly

the possibilities are endless. Sideboard, £2,074 for the

configuration shown (usm.com)

WHY? Specalising in wheel-thrown porcelain, her designs have a beautiful, natural form, so no two pieces are the same. HOW WOULD YOU SUM UP YOUR STYLE? 'Urban-organic.' DO YOU HAVE A DESIGN PHILOSOPHY? 'Design and making are inextricably linked in my practice – I don't draw anything before I make it. I throw it on the wheel in order to develop new ideas.' WHAT EXCITES YOU MOST ABOUT YOUR WORK? 'The material qualities of porcelain are really exciting to me; the way that working with it can sometimes be so challenging, but also very rewarding.' WHAT'S MORE IMPORTANT – FORM OR FUNCTION? 'Form – 60. Function – 40.'

WHAT'S THE MOST UNUSUAL PROJECT YOU'VE WORKED ON?
"Producing a large group of pendant lights for Jamie Oliver's
Fifteen Cornwall a few years ago. It was very decadent.'
WHAT'S BEEN YOUR GREATEST ACHIEVEMENT? 'Being a
featured designer in the National Portrait Gallery shop, plus having
my work as part of Heal's Collectables. It's been a good year!'
WHAT ARE YOU WORKING ON NEXT? 'From 4-6 December, I'm
re-creating my studio at Heal's on Tottenham Court Road and
demonstrating my wheel-throwing techniques.'
Learn more about Jo's work at jo-davies.com

Interview Amy Moorea Wong



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HOUSE of the MONTH

SHOW STOPER

With a home that already exudes glitz and glamour, Laura and Gary's Christmas is always dramatic, never a drama

> Photography – Paul Massey Styling – Emma Kay Words – Jo Leevers

Home profile

THE OWNERS Interior designers Laura and Gary Berkeley-Hawkes and their children Gracy, 15, Harvey, 13, and Luke, 11, plus Hector and Monty the cockapoos.

THE PROPERTY A double-fronted Thirties house in northwest London. The ground floor has a reception room, library, cinema room and large open-plan kitchen/dining/living space. There's also a utility room, garden room and office. On the first floor, there's a large landing, the master suite with dressing room, Gracy's bedroom suite, a guest bedroom, shower room and another living room. The top floor has Harvey and Luke's bedrooms and a bathroom.

ENTRANCE HALL

The house's Thirties features are embellished with decorative glass and sparkle. 'This big central hallway means we can meet and greet friends in style.' says Laura.

GET THE LOOK The chandelier is from The Vintage Chandelier Company. This is the Lover rug by Rob Pybus for Floor_Story. The silver double bass is by Christian Maas for Talisman. The plates are Fornasetti. The copper candlestick holder by Hay, on the mantel, is from Selfridges. The Centre Point model is by Chisel & Mouse. This is the Detroit console table from Graham and Green. The giftwrap, ribbons and decorations throughout are from a selection at Ikea, Paperchase, John Lewis and Habitat.









The central staircase that gracefully descends into the hall was always a big attraction of the house and Garv and Laura mirrored the architectural symmetry by adding sets of double doors to the living spaces. So the cinema room - an atmospheric, indulgent den between the living room and the library - has double doors at each end.

still get ridiculously excited about putting up the Christmas decorations,' says Laura Berkeley-Hawkes. 'I'm like a kid when it comes to anything glittery and sparkly -I try to stay tasteful and restrained, but sometimes I think, "What the hell, let's go for it!"

It's just as well that

Laura and her husband Gary's superbly glam Thirties home is the best place ever to hang it large, with proportions and details that ooze movie-star glamour. Think Odeon-style Deco touches from the days before multiplexes: decorative leaded glass, a foyer-sized hall and a central staircase that leads up to a landing complete with plush velvet seating.

The ta-dah! scale of the house wasn't lost on the couple when they found their northwest London home, despite the 'weird abandoned air' that hung about its rooms when they first viewed it. The décor was outdated and upstairs had a cramped feel, thanks to a long, gloomy corridor across the width of the house. Back then, the cinematic mood was more The Shining than The Grand Budapest Hotel.

A four-metre-length, double-floor extension built at the back, a wall of steel-framed windows installed downstairs and a generous landing remodelled above changed all that, helping to reinstate the house's original grandeur. The build was a long haul, with the family moving in just before last Christmas. But that's not quite the Hollywood ending it sounds. 'We rolled up with the removal van mid-December - but only the top floors were liveable,' says Laura. 'We had to decamp to a friend's house for Christmas dinner because we had no kitchen.' However, living above the builders was one way to get things back on schedule: 'In a nice-but-firm way, we gave them the message,' says Laura. 'Here we are - a family with three kids and two dogs. It's January. We need a kitchen!'

As well as reconfiguring the floor plan on the first floor to accommodate Laura and Gary's master suite, a loft extension was also added. This is now Harvey and Luke's 'boys' zone', with pitched walls and Shaker panelling in a style that flows seamlessly down to rest of the house. 'We wanted the top floor to have character. I hate to see a bland dormer box plonked on top of a period house,' says Laura.

'We wanted to put the Thirties features back into the house, but with a modern take,' says Laura. So timber panelling replaced Seventies Artex, parquet flooring was reinstated and the house was re-equipped with a full set of handsome fireplaces. 'We used a team of builders, but we designed and project-managed the rebuild and sourced everything,' she adds.

Laura's eye for putting together a look is partly the result of her previous career as a model. 'I worked right up until I had Gracy,' she recalls. 'Even then, I still modelled clothes with my bump. I used to go into Marks & Spencer and see my tummy on the front of rows and rows of maternity tights... Oh, the glamour!' she says with a laugh. But while Laura was sitting around on shoots, 'I wasn't gazing blankly into space,' she continues. 'I watched how the stylists put a look together, the difference lighting makes and how to combine colours and shapes. I took it all in.'

Having modelled her way from Eighties power suits to Nineties florals, Laura also developed a feel for styles that endure. Some of her favourite interiors pieces are vintage finds or, like her Fornasetti ceramics, 'timeless pieces of good design'. In her en suite, a pair of mermaid-shaped sconces hit just the right escapist glam note – even better, they were an inspired Portobello buy. 'For once, I think the dealer was dabbling outside his comfort zone and didn't realise what gems he had,' she says.

Laura's also a big eBay fan and her latest find is a set of wicker furniture in the sitting room – a warm contrast to the grey backdrop. But not half as good as her tumble of bright, glittery Christmas baubles or strings of circus-style bulbs. 'The run-up to the festivities can be so busy and full-on,' says Laura. 'Sometimes I yearn to escape to a tropical beach. But I know I'd miss all the excitement and tinsel – Christmas wouldn't be the same without a little bit of craziness...

Laura and Gary's home is available as a location through 1st-option.com



↓ KITCHEN →

Let the celebrations begin... A long marble-topped island is the house's central point for socialising, while tongue-and-groove cladding helps make the working zone a bit cosier. 'No matter how hectic Christmas preparations get, we always make time to toast each other,' says Laura.

GET THE LOOK The deVOL kitchen is painted in Mole's Breath estate eggshell by Farrow & Ball. The pendants hanging over the island are from Retrouvius. The Noël bread, on the island, is from M&S. The panettone is from Carluccio's.





Home truths

WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE THING ABOUT CHRISTMAS DAY? Gary: When the children all offer to clear the table and wash up. I live in hope! AND FAVOURITE FESTIVE FOOD? Garv: Chestnut stuffing. WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO FIND IN YOUR STOCKINGS? Laura: A gorgeous mid-century Murano glass chandelier I've had my eye on. Gary: A Jean-Michel Basquiat painting. WHAT'S THE BEST THING THAT HAPPENED IN 2015? Both: Finally finishing our house after a year of renovations and getting to enjoy it. LAURA, TELL US A SECRET ABOUT MODELLING? It isn't all glamorous: imagine holding the same (uncomfortable) position in the freezing cold, trying to look warm and comfortable! WHICH DANCE TRACK ALWAYS GETS YOU OUT ON THE FLOOR? Laura: Stayin' Alive by the Bee Gees (Ah, ah, ah, ah!).

LANDING 1

This supersized first-floor area is a room in its own right. 'It felt quite decadent to leave it as a "breathing space" at the top of the stairs - but it makes a huge difference to the feel of the house,' says Laura. **GET THE LOOK** The sideboard is an

upcycled eBay find. This is the Giant 1227 floor lamp by Anglepoise. The bench is from Sofas & Stuff. The rug is Oilbirds by Eve Spencer for Floor_Story. The walls are painted in Cornforth White estate emulsion by Farrow & Ball. The floral bouquet is from Wild at Heart.

MASTER EN SUITE →

'I've worked up a mix of old and new that feels very "us",' says Laura. **GET THE LOOK** The bath is from Drummonds. The basin is by Villeroy & Boch. The bespoke pedestal unit was sourced by Edwins. All the brassware is from Lefroy Brooks. The chandelier is by Graham and Green.

HOMESetc





← GRACY'S EN SUITE

The shade on the bath strikes just the right note for a bathing space that's feminine, but not flashy. 'I took the Calamine pink and threaded it through the rest of Gracy's room,' says Laura. GET THE LOOK The bath is from The Cast Iron Bath Company, painted in Calamine estate eggshell by Farrow & Ball. The mirrored chest is a vintage find. The flooring is from Verona Marble. The nickel taps are by Lefroy Brooks. The pendant was bought in Morocco. Find an Eames DSR chair at The Conran Shop. This is the Beginning cushion by Jessica Zoob for Black Edition at Romo.

HARVEY'S ROOM →

Shaker-style pegs are 'Great for a teenager - minimum effort required!' says Laura.

GET THE LOOK The walls are painted in Cornforth White estate emulsion by Farrow & Ball. The bed is by Sofas & Stuff. The Bennett throw and Christmas stocking are by Habitat. The bed linen is from The Linen Works.

Livingetc loves THE SUPERSCALED FURNITURE, such as the long kitchen island and statement lights that are allowed to expand into the generous spaces. THE CABIN-FEEL LOFT EXTENSION that embraces the shape of the pitched roof - cosy, but cool. LAURA'S LUXE RUGS: they work like extra artwork on the floor. THE PERIOD DETAILS AND PANELLING, which add drama without going all Downton on us. THOSE BACKDROP BLUES: deepest teal and Hague Blue let lighter, brighter colours shine through. ALL THE IVY AND FOLIAGE - the natural partner to tone down brighter, sparkly seasonal decs.

DRESSING ROOM →

This annex leading off the master en suite is all about practical glamour. 'Gary and I got the carpenter to add the mirrored door panels - it's an inexpensive way to break up the run of storage and make the space feel more interesting,' says Laura. GET THE LOOK The velvet ottoman is from Sofas & Stuff.



HOMESetc



KEY PRODUCTS

IDEAS toSTEAL Sophisticated teals and pinks are ideal for pepping up a Thirties monochrome scheme





KEY FEATURE Leaded-light windows

Leadlights are a much-loved feature in period properties and these stunning floor-to-ceiling designs are a fabulous example. While Art Nouveau styles often use organic motifs, Laura and Gary's Georgian-meets-Thirties glass doors incorporate simpler, more geometric shapes, beautifully highlighted by the Anglepoise (itself a Thirties design). The Glass Studio (leadlightwindows.co.uk) can restore or make new leadlights. To restore windows this size, expect to pay approx £2,750 to £3,000; or from £2,000 to £2,800 for new designs.



Research Sarah Baldwin Photography (leaded-light windows) Paul Massey, (paint swatch)



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Swan masquerade mask, £175, Andrew Fisher for Fish Head Hats. Enchantment wreath, £25, John Lewis. Cascading fairy lights, £55, The White Company.

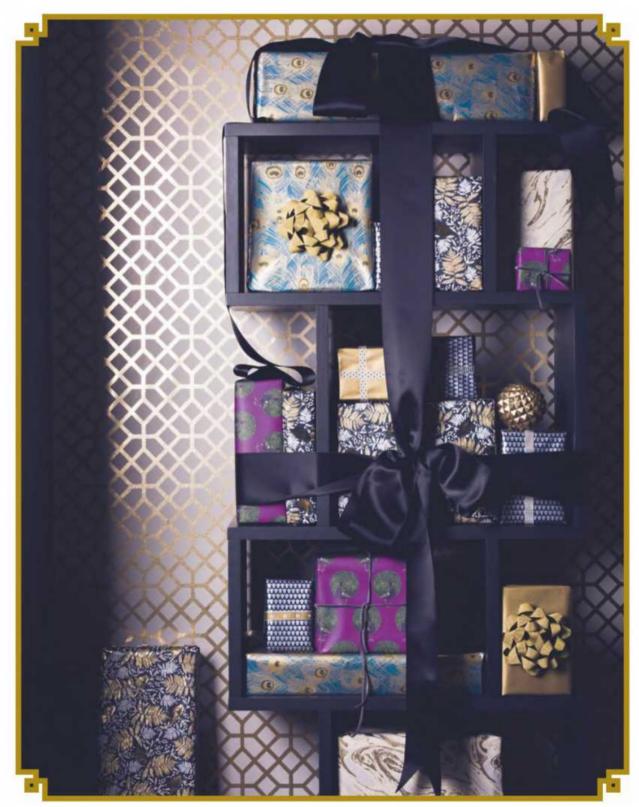


Wrap party

Ditch the natural foliage and multicoloured tinsel – a black be-ribboned banister woven with fairy lights sets a dramatically chic scene for the season's festivities.

ABOVE Detroit console table, £225, Graham and Green. Copper telephone, £64.95, Wild & Wolf. Tank High Ball glass, £55, Tom Dixon at Harrods. Dandy Lion Christmas card, £2.99, Chase and Wonder. Satin ribbon, from £8.95 per m, VV Rouleaux. Tin Tin Collectables at Alfies Antique Market sells vintage men's dancing shoes and shoe lasts like these. OPPOSITE PAGE Framed photographs, from left to right, Vilma Bánky, £295; Katharine Hepburn, £275; and Audrey Hepburn, £325, Limelight Movie Art. Bea fairy lights, £40, Habitat. It's Time to Celebrate greetings card, £2.99, Chase and Wonder. Ribbon, console table, telephone, Christmas card, shoes and shoe lasts, as before.





Age of opulence

A mix of shimmering golds, deep purples and oceanic blues adds luxury to a monochrome scheme, while ornate Deco patterns and embellishments get us in the mood for all kinds of fun and games.

ABOVE Pisani P603/02 **wallpaper** in Copper, £75 per 10m roll, Designers Guild. Balance Alcove **shelving**, £499, Content by Terence Conran. Gold **bauble**, from £2, John Lewis. Purple peacock disc **wrapping paper**, £1.95 per sheet, Chase and Wonder. Other **wrapping papers**: gold peacock feather, £3.50; Bird and Fern, £3.50; Gold and Silver Compendium sets. £6 each, all M&S. **Ribbon**, as before.

Compendium sets, £6 each, all M&S. **Ribbon**, as before.

OPPOSITE PAGE **Wallpaper**, as *above*. Cranton **pendant light**, £2,899, Original BTC. Jermyn **sofa**, £5,091, Gordon Guillaumier for Lema. **Cushions**, *from left*, Sacha, £66, BoConcept; GoldenDaze, £348, BeatWoven at Harrods; Cranes, £199, Klaus Haapaniemi at Harrods; and Exclusive, £79, BoConcept. Agate **side table**, £125; and Magpie **coffee table**, £795, Graham and Green. Shelter **table lamp**, £299, BoConcept. Christmas **baubles**, from £2 each, John Lewis. Japanese Fans **rug**, £7,312.50, Florence Broadhurst collection at Knots Rugs. Madame **head**, £178, Jonathan Adler. **Top hats**, from £395 each, Lock & Co. Ridley's Games Room **backgammon set**, £14.95, Wild & Wolf. Copper bauble **fairy lights**, *on floor*, £25, Next Home. Brigitte **chair**, £2,250, Jonathan Adler. **Wrapping paper** and **accessories**, as before.





Gilty pleasures

Swap your Norway spruce for a decadent black tree - and festoon it with an extravaganza of pearls, baubles and glitter, Gatsby style. Finish with a cheeky cocktail. G&T, anyone?

ABOVE LED Twig tree, £45, Next Home. Hat tree topper, £125; and Bunny masquerade mask, £95, Andrew Fisher for Fish Head Hats. Tree decorations: humming birds, £5.95 each, Liberty, Humbug vertically striped baubles, £6 for a set of two; and Kember horizontally striped baubles, £12 for a set of four, all Habitat; and assorted gold and feather decorations, from £2 each, John Lewis. String of pearls, from a selection, Covent Garden Flower Market. Feather Fringe mirror, £225; and Golden pineapple, £8.95, Graham and Green. Gold marble wrapping paper, ribbon and wallpaper, as before.

OPPOSITE PAGE Puccini cocktail cabinet, £1,999, John Lewis. Modern Metallics pineapples, £16.50 each, Talking Tables. Seneca cocktail shaker, £30, Habitat. Dusty Pink mirror, £166, Sylvain Willenz for Hay at Heal's. Crane candleholders, from £58 each, Anthropologie. Flamingos, from left, £495, Abigail Brown at Liberty; and £140, Steiff. Arris martini glass, £95 for a set of two, Wedgwood at Harrods. Bacharach Swivel armchair, £2,750, Jonathan Adler. Amalfi Coast cushion, £195, Alexandra D Foster at Harrods. Zox rug, £700, Heal's. Peacock hat, £495, Andrew Fisher for Fish Head Hats. Wallpaper, baubles and top hats, as before.





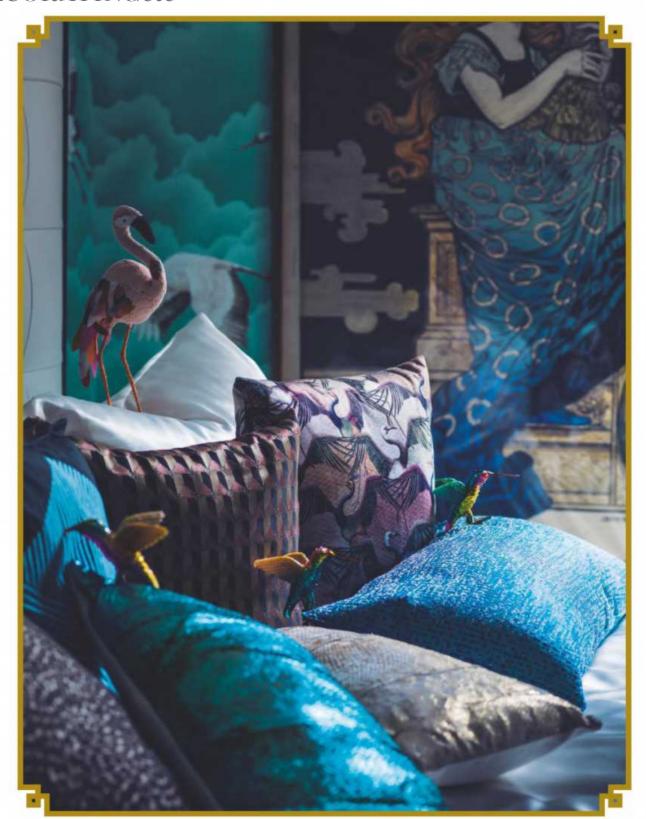
Party animals

A sleek dining table set with gleaming candlesticks and sparkling crystal will make any Christmas bash go off with a bang. The Deco-style geometric walls spur us on to throw some shapes on the dancefloor later...

ABOVE Accents **console table**, £399, Content by Terence Conran. Bonbon **jars**, from £32 each, Neptune. Vanità **cake stand**, £92.82, MADII at Clippings.com. Peacock **fascinator**, £95, Andrew Fisher for Fish Head Hats. Christmas **baubles** in jar and **flamingo**, as before. Glitterati **balloons**, £9.50 for 30, Talking Tables. Black and white **feathers**, from a selection, Covent Garden Flower Market. Cascading **fairy lights** and martini **glasses**, as before. Arris **tumblers**, £80 for a set of two, Wedgwood at Harrods. **Wall vinyl** – for details, see *below*.

OPPOSITE PAGE Gold wall vinyl, from £25 per 5m roll, Vinyl Warehouse. Ford dining table, £5,995, The Sofa & Chair Company. Softshell dining chairs, £1,124.40 each, Ronan and Erwan Bouroullec for Vitra at Harrods. Ceramic cake stands, £125 each, Paola Navone for Reichenbach at The Conran Shop. Gem candlestick, £65; and Gem candelabra, £185, Tom Dixon at Harrods. Candles, from £2 each, Covent Garden Flower Market. Isadora pineapple centrepiece, £4,000, William Yeowood Crystal. White ceramic pineapple, £35, Graham and Green. Gold sequin bear, £140; and white Aurelius bear, on floor, £125, Steiff. Gold glitter pears, created by style team. Pineapple, on floor, and fairy lights, as before.





Take flight

Layers of sensuous, sheeny fabrics carry the gorgeously glamorous theme into the boudoir, while the exquisite Oriental-style bird motif wallpaper transports you to a deliciously exotic realm.

ABOVE Wallpaper, poster, duvet and pillowcase – for details, see below. Cushions, top row, from left to right, Hexagon, £57, Nazanin Kamali at Heal's; Shield, £42; and Wings, £53, both BoConcept; second row, from left, Bunty, £55, BoConcept; Arctic Leather Ocean; and Arctic Leather Gold, £130 each, both Jeanne Lainé. Rectangular bolster made from Miramar F6770-16 viscose-mix, £69 per rm, Matthew Williamson at Osborne & Little. Bird Christmas decorations, £10.95 each, Liberty. Flamingo, as before.

OPPOSITE PAGE Cranes in Flight wallpaper in Emerald, £58 per 10m roll, Palmetto Collection at Harlequin. Winston bed, £18,025 (mattress and topper included), Savoir Beds at Harrods. Vertigo pendant light, £508, Constance Guisset for Petite Friture. Find a similar vintage Bières de la Meuse by Marc Auguste Bastard poster at 55 Max. Ivory silk pillowcases, from £65 each; and king size duvet, £359, Gingerlily. Cushions, as before. Slit side table, £339, Hay at Liberty. Find similar headphones, from £139.95, at John Lewis. Hatboxes, from £35 each, Lock & Co. Bell Twist carpet in Aquatint, £40 per sq m, Brintons. Gold peacock feather wrapping paper, £3.50, M&S. Ribbon and hats, as before.





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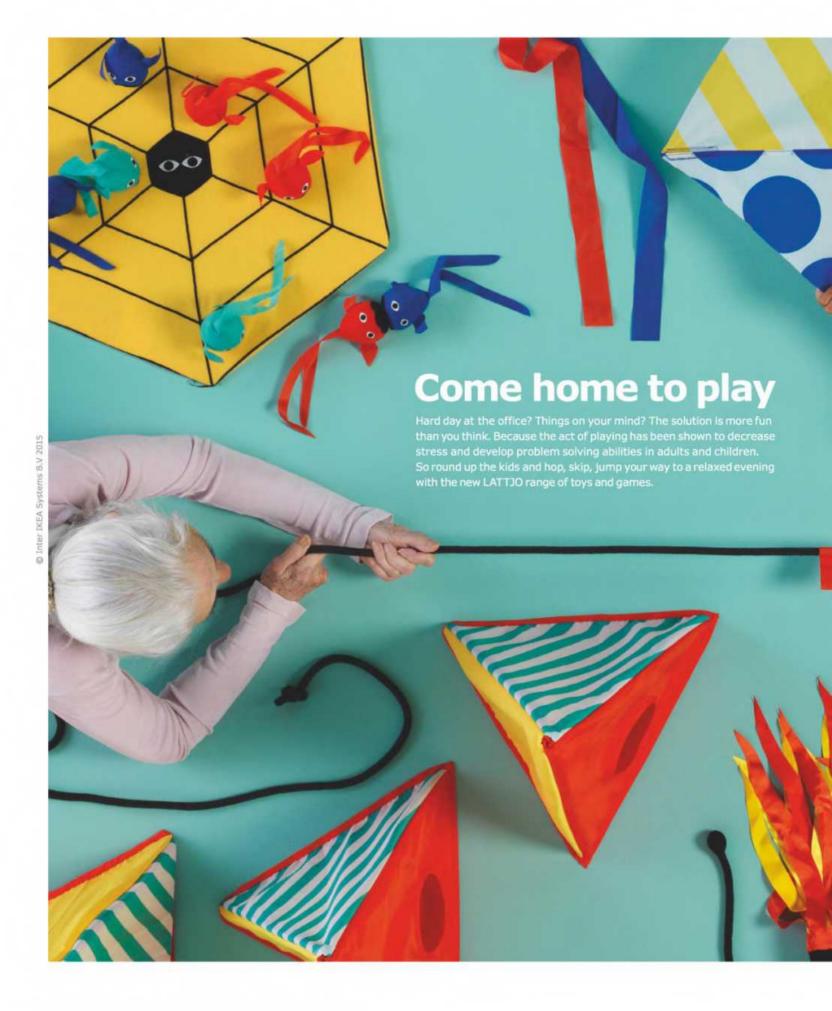






SHOPPINGetc











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HOMES

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page72

RAW AND WILD

Natural materials keep a chic Cape Town abode ultra-cool

page82

WELCOME TO THE HOUSE OF FUN

Festive frolics are guaranteed in this updated Georgian gem

page90

CABIN FEVER

It may be covered in snow, but this ski shack is seriously hot

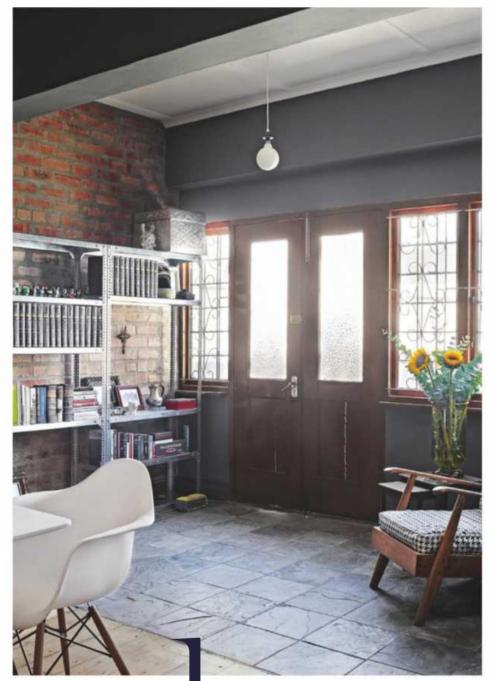
page100

HEART OF GLASS

A glazed extension gives this place its cutting-edge looks







the perfect set-up for us, despite the disgusting colours'. Which colours? 'How long have you got?' asks Scott. 'Pink, purple, peach, blue... all with various frills and spills. But the bones of the house were amazing.' He returned with Monique the next day and pretty soon, they were steeped in the renovation.

Fortunately, their ideas were in tune. Both are self-confessed design-obsessives with a love for old and new, so disagreements were minimal. 'We knew exactly what we wanted,' says Scott. 'We did some research, but that was more to show the builder.'

Take the 'unfinished' wall in the kitchen, for example – a mix of original bricks and more recently installed concrete blocks. 'It was a difficult look to explain,' says Scott. 'We wanted the wall finished and screeded, then chipped away to look as though bits had fallen off. Luckily, the builder understood and what we got in the end is amazing'.

The colour scheme was a simple choice, because both he and Monique like dark, rich shades – they chose deep greys and blues to work with the raw brick and concrete. 'We really like it at the moment,' says Scott. 'But, you know, that could change.' The interior is a blend of old and new, shop-sourced and vintage, plus a liberal smattering of family heirlooms and photographs.

Like many of the surrounding houses, Scott and Monique's dates from the Thirties, when the area was a booming suburb. The duo kept many of the original fixtures: the Oregon pine floorboards were re-laid, the living room fireplace was refurbished and the façade of the house was left intact. Original ceilings were uncovered during the refurb. 'The previous owner had lowered them by half a metre – for what reason I cannot understand,' says Scott.

The inevitable snag came when it was time for the pair to move from their old apartment into the house, which wasn't ready in the slightest, so they lived in the unfinished spare room for six weeks, unable to even make a coffee and with just a microwave for company. But our builder made it his mission to get us comfortable as soon as possible,' says Scott.

Now their home is complete, they're quietly pleased with the space – even if the design's baffling to some of their friends. Industrial-style interiors aren't commonplace in Cape Town houses. 'We really like the feel of the open-plan bedroom and bathroom,' says Scott. 'The builder and everyone else were a bit worried about it but we're really okay with it. And some people don't get the kitchen walls *at all*. Our domestic lady keeps asking us when it's going to be finished!'

So did he and Monique get the industrial warehouse feel they wanted? 'It's not exactly a loft... but we did as best we could,' says Scott. 'So, yes, we're pretty happy with the result.'

ark colours in a sunny climate seem counterintuitive, but they work seamlessly in Scott and Monique's airy, industrial-style home. Even at this time of year, when, says Scott, the sun doesn't set until eight in the evening and the weather is 'awesome and hot'. The couple avoid the madness of Cape Town over the festive season (and the 'crazy traffic', Scott adds) by hanging out at home with friends. The city's legendary New Year carnival, or *Kaapse Klopse*, where locals dress up and parade through the streets, takes place and is, says Scott, 'really festive and pretty cool to watch. Unless you aim to sleep at any stage'.

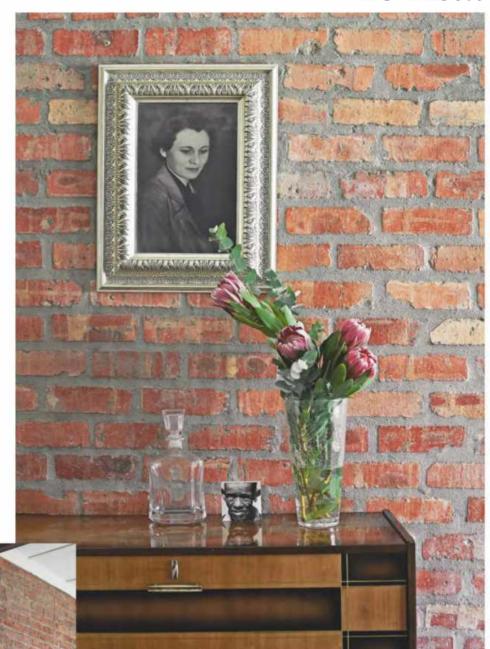
If the house looks like a slab of Manhattan-style loft living transported to a hip South African suburb, it's because that's exactly what was intended. The inspiration for the space – and the colours – was New York, a place Scott has visited for work many times. 'All I ever wanted was an open-plan, upstairs loft apartment with the least amount of wall possible,' he says. Not living in the US, he would have to improvise. His love was, he says, 'raw brick, really industrial, barn door entrances... that kind of stuff'. He has it here in spades.

Scott and Monique started house hunting more than a year ago, looking for something to knock down or renovate. The first place Scott set eyes on wasn't an apartment, but a wrecked single-storey period house-turned-hairdresser's-salon in the Vredehoek district, near to the city centre, with views of Table Mountain. Some would have walked swiftly in the opposite direction, but he knew immediately he had seen what he wanted. 'People say, when you walk into a place, you either get the feeling or you don't and I loved it straightaway,' says Scott. 'It was open plan, with hardly any walls, no kitchen, nothing. So





Home truths SCOTT. WHAT ARE YOU DOING ON NEW YEAR'S EVE? For us, New Year is best spent at home with a bunch of close mates. We'd much rather have friends over for an afternoon-into-evening party than go out to a restaurant. TELL US ABOUT YOUR TATTOOS... Everything that has a meaning to me is represented in my tattoos - my family, my love for vintage cars and bikes. They're a narrative of my life. WHAT'S THE BEST LOCAL WINE? My favourites are Hemel en Aarde and Franschhoek. SATURDAY - QUIET NIGHT IN OR NOISY NIGHT OUT? It depends on the Friday! We enjoy going out a lot and having people over for a barbecue, or braai, as we say. WHERE'S THE BEST PLACE TO EAT? One of my favourites is the Black Sheep, which does a slow-roasted lamb shoulder you book 48 hours in advance. It feeds six and is great to share with a group.



←LIVING AREA

'This is a new wall we added in,' says Scott. 'It's been finished with a clear lacquer to give a slightly gloss look. The floors are the original Oregon pine boards we lifted up, realigned and levelled. We then sanded and sealed them again for a new lease of life.'

GET THE LOOK The artwork leaning against the wall is by Kehinde Wiley.

LIVING AREA ↑

'The Art Deco radiogram [a combined radio and record player] is one my favourite pieces in the house, bought from a local dealer when I first moved to Cape Town 15 years ago,' says Scott. The framed print is a photograph of Scott's grandmother. 'My family have lived in South Africa since as far back as I can remember, but we're originally of Irish descent.' **GET THE LOOK** Find

radiograms like this one on 1stdibs.com. Zara Home does frames in this style.



← MASTER BEDROOM

'The one request from Monique was to have a bedroom that was really comfy with a plush bed,' says Scott. 'That's why we have the ornate mirrored finish on the side tables and the fur throw to make the space more feminine. The photographs above the bed were for a local shoot about living a rockabilly lifestyle. I was asked to feature as an "everyday-looking chap"." **GET THE LOOK** The side table is from @Home. The walls and floor are concrete.

GUEST BEDROOM ↓

'We went with a rich blue as it lifts the warmth,' says Scott. 'The lamp is a DIY cheapie. We removed the shade, added an oversized globe and sprayed the base with a copper finish. We didn't want anything too fancy as it wouldn't work with the rest of the industrial feel.'

GET THE LOOK The bedside cabinet is from Ikea.

GUEST BATHROOM →

Scott and Monique continued the industrial theme and colours in the guest bathroom. **GET THE LOOK** The basin and antique-style mirror were local finds. The couple's builder installed the copper pipework - for details, see opposite page.





HOMESetc The blueprint **MASTER BEDROOM** The large mirror was a housewarming gift from Scott's parents when he bought his first flat and it has followed him everywhere since – it has been repainted six or seven times. GET THE LOOK Scott's parents gave him the Louis chairs – he had them re-covered in white ostrich leather and the arms and legs silver-leafed. Find similar at The French Bedroom Company. See more great houses at housetohome.co.uk/ house-tours 80 JANUARY 2016 lifestyleetc.co.uk



Warm up a postindustrial space with vibrant ethnic patterns and bold hues



KEY SURFACES



FROM LEFT Black Metro ceramic wall tiles, £23.50 per sq m, Topps Tiles; Como Blue flat emulsion, £41 for 2.5l, Zoffany; and Brick Wall wallpaper, £30 per sq m, Niclas Dahlgren for the Captured Reality collection at Mr Perswall



KEY FEATURE Exposed pipework

In tune with Scott and Monique's 'unfinished' aesthetic, the couple chose to have the pipework in their shower room fully exposed. Defiantly on-trend, this raw, industrial style goes beyond the norm by being moulded into a curvaceous symmetrical shape. Highly competent DIYers might wish to take on the task themselves - copper piping is available at Wickes (wickes. co.uk) from £2 per m - although those less assured may prefer to bring in a professional. Track down a qualified plumber at ratedpeople.com.



3



Welcome to the

HALL

The floor tiles are from the 16th century and are original to the house. 'All the floors here are really thick and lovely,' says Jim. 'And as you walk over the tiles in the hall, they're slightly wonky, so they clunk.'

GET THE LOOK The walls are painted in Farrow & Ball's Bone estate emulsion and the

woodwork is Farrow & Ball's White Tie estate eggshell.

tun

Jim and Chloe's Georgian pile may have an air of grandeur, but it's also very much a home designed for family frolics

> Photography - James Merrell Production - Mary Weaver Words - Lola Borg







'Obviously this is a party house,'

says Jim Read, 'and we've designed it to be just that.' A huge and elegant space, it's a fabulous family home that can flip easily into a place to entertain. This New Year, Jim and his wife Chloe, owners of Newgate Clocks and Watches, will have a proper bash – light fires and candles in every room and push the Chesterfield back against the window. Then, they'll get the place into full-on festive mode with their children and friends congregating for 'hopefully a wild night' says Jim. 'The messier the better.' They invite the entire street, so never have to worry about complaints from neighbours. The final touch is the fairy lights on windows and doors, which are designed, says Jim, not to be visible during the day, but are so bright, they can illuminate the house at night.

This time last year, they had only just moved in, which is as good an excuse as any to celebrate. Eighteen months ago, looking for a new family home outside of Shrewsbury, Chloe and Jim were feeling despondent after the property they wanted fell through and, antsy to move, decided to look at 'any house at all that was remarkable'. A couple of weeks later, their agent phoned to say something was coming on the market that night. She sent one photograph. 'As soon as we saw it, we had that hairs-on-the-back-of-the-neck feeling you get when you see something and you just *know*,' says Jim. 'We begged her to show it to us the next day and sure enough, it was amazing.' Within three weeks, they were the new owners.

What appealed to them most about the house were the proportions. 'It's not only a crazy designer thing, but it's also that Chloe and I have always had a yearning for the big classic Georgian houses that are completely symmetrical.' In fact, Jim and Chloe used to walk past the house when they were in their twenties and admired it. Built in 1770, it has had various

incarnations over the years, including a spell as a maternity hospital. 'Our games and cinema room was the gynaecologist's study,' says Jim.

When they first viewed the house, every single original feature was still intact and the interiors had hardly been touched. 'Although so dishevelled, it was a bit like Miss Havisham's house,' says Jim. Someone else's unfinished project, they had to complete what the previous owners had started, but wanted to leave it as complete as possible. All it needed, says Jim, was repair, 'lots of TLC' and a team of craftsmen to work their magic on the interior. Jim and Chloe have cleverly allowed the house to dictate what they do inside and when they couldn't find exactly what worked, Jim made it.

'What was important was the house was an inspiration for what we do,' says Jim, who works from home at least two days a week (Newgate's main office in Oswestry, Shropshire, is 30 minutes away). The couple set up the company in 1990 and have grown the business from a tiny cottage industry operating from a spare room to supplying upmarket department stores. The brand has recently expanded into watches, which, as with their clocks, are informed by their mutual love of mid-century furniture and accessories. Jim has a collection of 'hundreds' of vintage clocks, 99 per cent of which, he says, are in storage (though you'll see a few around the house too).

Both Jim and Chloe have parents who are antiques dealers, so sourcing vintage is in their DNA. 'We both had childhoods sitting in the back of Volvos in a tiny space surrounded by stuff our parents had bought at auctions and house clearances,' he says. This background has shaped how they source their furniture – they still go to car boots and antiques fairs, but they are clever buyers. 'All our chandeliers, for example, have been reasonably priced,' says Jim. 'Because we know the business from our parents, we have a feel for what prices should be.'

Designing and making clocks and watches is, of course, all about precision and attention to detail, which is absolutely reflected in the house. But it's also a family home too. The only downside to the space is that, even with refurbished windows, the house is still drafty. 'We just wear jumpers a lot of the time and we have loads of open fires and keep them running as much as we can,' says Jim. 'In fact, there's only a short period in the summer when we don't have fires. But then, they're so lovely, aren't they?' See Jim and Chloe's products at newgateclocks.com and newgatewatches.com



↓ STUDY

'This is one of my favourite rooms, because it's my centre of creativity,' says Jim. 'Watch design is quite complex and requires solitude.' The timepieces are all by Newgate Watches.

GET THE LOOK The vintage jewellery counter is from an antiques dealer in Wales. The mid-century picture frames feature stills from a Newgate Watches film shoot. Home truths
JIM, DO YOU LOVE OR
HATE NEW YEAR'S EVE?

I absolutely love New Year's Eve. What do I do? I get drunk. DRINK OF CHOICE? Vodka and grapefruit juice, and that's very heavy on the vodka. It's the best thing. THE BEST AND WORST THING ABOUT LIVING AND WORKING TOGETHER? The best thing is having someone completely on your side 24 hours a day. To be honest, there's no worst thing really. Chloe and I get on really well. WHO'S THE COOK? We both love food, but Chloe complains that she does 99 per cent of the cooking.

FAVOURITE WAY TO ESCAPE TIME? Shopping or watching movies. In our games room we have a ten-foot cinema screen. We do vintage

↓ MASTER BEDROOM

Bound stacks of *The Times* newspaper are used as a side table. 'The bed? We've been looking for a new one for ages,' says Jim.

GÉT THE LOOK The cushions are from Liberty. The quilt and bedspread are vintage. The large antique mirror was reclaimed from a bank in North Yorkshire.





∠ BUSTER'S ROOM

'Chloe and I made the "Buster" sign when our son was younger,' says Jim. 'It was part of his bunk bed at the last house and he insisted it came with him!' **GET THE LOOK** The walls
are painted in Farrow & Ball's London Clay estate emulsion. The cushions are from Pets Rock.

↓ CHILDREN'S BATHROOM

'We wanted this space to be fresh and simple. The tub is raised so the kids can bathe and look out over the park and river,' says Jim. 'The print is bespoke by Sunny Side Art - it has our house on it.'

GET THE LOOK The bath is from Lefroy Brooks. This is the La Volière bird cage light by Mathieu Challières at Liberty. The 50s 'Electric' wall clock is by Newgate Clocks.









IDEAS toSTEAL

Inject a contemporary vibe into a Georgian home with eclectic finds and offbeat art







FROM LEFT Reclaimed Mixed Plank **flooring**, from £139.85 per sq m, Ecora; Little Boy Blue **matt emulsion**, £19 for 2.5l, Graham & Brown at wallpaperking. co.uk; and Casablanca Mono Hexagon Decor **tile**, £40 per sq m, Mandarin Stone



KEY FEATURE Octagon and dot flooring

Offering an unusual take on traditional limestone tiles inlaid with slate cabochons (or dots), the spectacular floor in Jim and Chloe's entrance hall reverses the colour scheme, so white becomes black and vice versa. In this instance, both the octagon tiles and the cabochons are made up of marble, adding to the grandiose feel of the space. To re-create this design, contact a flooring specialist such as Artisans of Devizes (artisansofdevizes.com), which can make up a bespoke floor in a similar style from approx £226 per sq m.



1 IC pendant, from £233, Michael Anastassiades for Flos at The Livingetc Edit at Clippings.com
2 Paso potted faux cactus, £84, Abigail Ahern 3 Maritime chopping board, £40, Linea at House of Fraser
4 Victorian tattooed wrestler and tattoed lady puppet cards, £25 each, Crank Bunny at Nelly Duff
5 Facet oak chair, £170, Unto This Last 6 Dickens cupboard, £1,250, Graham and Green 7 Birds of Paradise lamp, £250, MiaFleur

HOMESetc

5

CabinFEVER Guido's Alpine hideaway may look like a trad ski lodge on the outside, but it's made of concrete and rocks a modernist vibe inside

Photography - Mads Mogensen Styling - Martina Hunglinger Words - Andréa Childs





Home profile

THE OWNER Guido Casty, a restaurateur, plus
Yaki the Spanish greyhound.

THE PROPERTY A modern ski lodge in Flims,

HOMESetc

Switzerland. There's a living room and kitchendiner on the ground floor. On the lower-ground floor there's a bedroom/bathroom and WC.

EXTERIOR

The concrete walls were cast from the original log cabin that once stood here. In years to come, they'll become covered with lichen and moss and soften into the landscape.



'I own a restaurant,



so of course my New Year's Eve celebrations involve food,' says a smiling Guido Casty. 'It takes an hour's walk to get there through the snowy forest. But after my friends and family have enjoyed the meal, we'll ride back in a horse-drawn carriage.

It's an incredibly romantic way for Guido to return to his cabin, set in an idvllic Swiss village -but this is no cute *Heidi-*style homestead. 'Lots of people tell me it looks like a nuclear bunker,' he says, laughing. 'Then they step inside and they're blown away by how comfortable the place is.' That disconnect between the cabin's appearance and its inviting atmosphere shouldn't be so surprising. Like a Rachel Whiteread sculpture, the 40 sq m building is cast in concrete, using an old timber cabin as a mould. The result is thick walls featuring log-shaped indents imprinted with the knots and grain of the original wood.

'This Alpine village of Flims is famous for its natural landscape, so the regulations around what can and can't be built here are strict,' says Guido. 'The former structure was decaying, but the preservation rules demanded that "its character be retained and preserved". I didn't just want to rebuild it, so I asked a local architecture practice to submit a more daring design.'

It took two years for building consent to be granted and then six months for the construction work to be complete. The cabin was first removed, so that the cellar carved into the rock beneath could be rebuilt and insulated. When that was done, the cabin was craned back in place and used as a mould for the walls. 'The most nerve-racking moment was the pouring of the concrete,' Guido recalls. 'It was tricky for the builders as they had to be sure the concrete wouldn't leak out. And the whole job had to be cast in one day to ensure the structural integrity of the building.

To maintain the cabin's aesthetic and make the most of the floor space, more concrete was used to create benches and even the bath - all warmed, like the floors, with a concealed heating system.

'I can't deny that I was nervous about stepping inside for the first time,' Guido admits. 'I couldn't see how concrete could have the warmth of wood, but I was instantly struck by its tactile quality and the variation in colour throughout.'

Care has been taken to create a cosy feel in the monastic space – walls are gently angled; the doors, window frames and kitchen cabinets are made from white pine; and picture windows look out on to rock formations and forests, their elemental force somehow making the rooms seem more intimate in comparison. 'The cabin stays true to its first function, which is to provide refuge, but it also has a power that stands up to its dramatic setting,' says Guido. 'Waking up here on New Year's Day is an incredible experience. You only have to look out of the window to see why.

To learn more about Nickisch Sano Walder Architekten's projects, phone 0041 819 112 028. The cabin is available to rent: visit conn.ch for details

I have all the comforts you need'







STAIRS ↑

The gently curved stairs lead to the bedroom/ bathroom in what would once have been the cellar.

← LIVING ROOM

'Originally, the building would have been a refuge for farmers and the cool, humid cellar was used for producing cheese,' Guido explains. 'Now that basement has become a serene bedroom/bathroom. Upstairs, what would have been a rough-and-ready room is now an open-plan living space, ideal for relaxing after a day on the slopes.'

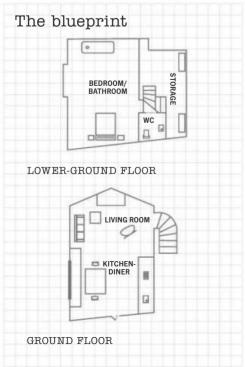
GET THE LOOK This is the BKF Butterfly chair.



BEDROOM/BATHROOM

'The bath is my favourite spot,' says Guido. 'To lie here, almost crushed by the view of the rocks outside, is amazing.' Although it looks hard and edgy, sloping ends and internal heating make the concrete tub surprisingly comfortable. The wood door on the wall conceals storage.

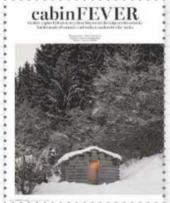
GET THE LOOK The brassware and fittings are by Vola. The lighting was designed by Georg Nickisch and Selina Walder in collaboration with Kobe Steel.





'The view from the bath is incredible'

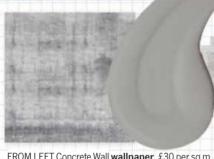




IDEAS toSTEAI Mix cool, natural

Mix cool, natural materials with warm, tactile textures for maximum impact

KEY SURFACES



FROM LEFT Concrete Wall **wallpaper**, £30 per sq m, Niclas Dahlgren at Mr Perswall; Urbane Grey **absolute matt emulsion**, £37 for 2.5l. Little Greene; and Pixelé 17238-001 **jacquard**, £112 per m, Dominique Kieffer at Rubelli



KEY FEATURE Solid-concrete surfaces

With its raw, unpolished texture, Guido's lodge has the same rough-hewn appearance as the boulders strewn across the mountain outside. Nearer to home, many houses in the UK are built by Insulated Concrete Formwork (ICF), where concrete is poured into polystyrene moulds. However, compared to traditional brick and timber, it's an expensive technique: expect to pay £40 per sq m, plus the cost of the concrete and labour. To learn more about solid-concrete surfaces, check out specialist supplier TopCret (topcret.com).



KEY PRODUCTS



3

6





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Heart of Stripping their new home back to its bare bones meant Arun and Susanne had to endure dust, grime and a year's separation. Worth it? You bet... **INNER LIVING ROOM** A suspended bubble chair adds an iconic element to the scheme. The staircase, meanwhile, contains storage as well as a cloakroom. GET THE LOOK This is Chevron Planks flooring by Cheville Parquet. Find the Shapes rug by Darkroom at Floor_Story.





With the boys nearly bouncing off the walls, it's clear that Christmas is fast approaching

in the Batra household in southwest London. 'Because I'm Indian and my wife Susanne is German, the different cultural celebrations stretch from the 24th to the 26th of December', says Arun, the driving force behind this beautiful family setting. 'That means the festivities just go on and on! But if there's one thing we love in this house, it's a party.'

It soon becomes apparent to anyone approaching the front door of the Edwardian terrace that a welcome mat isn't needed to convey the convivial atmosphere inside. 'It was important that, above all else, we would totally enjoy living in this space,' says Arun. 'Yes, I wanted it to look amazing, but, for me, a home is your place of safety and wellbeing, so comfort was crucial. Go too far with design and it can feel alienating.'

Yet great design is often about seeing the potential in the bare bones. Arun, who has an exceptional eye for detail – 'And a touch of OCD', he quips – first viewed the property with a heavily pregnant Susanne. 'The estate agent even asked us if we'd mind if she waited outside,' Arun recalls. 'She was convinced the house wasn't for us, but I just thought, "This is it!"'

Unperturbed by the sorry state of the interior, the couple decided to embark on a full-blown renovation, which would take the best part of a year – meaning everything, except the original cornices and some tiling, would go. But with a second child imminent, practicalities forced Susanne to return to Germany to stay with her parents while Arun concentrated on the build.

'We exchanged contracts the day Milo was born, which my Indian father took as a very lucky sign,' Arun recalls. 'But living separately for 12 months was hard. Susanne, our eldest son Oskar and the baby came back regularly and she was brilliant at helping with the major decisions, such as choosing the kitchen and the flooring, but most of the time, I was running my own business organisation, working on the house and missing them all terribly.'

When it came to the more complex additions, the design team at A1 Project Management helped Arun execute his vision. A side extension and glass roof in the kitchen – 'When there's a full moon, it lights up the whole area,' says Arun – dealt with the often gloomy Edwardian interior, while a statement staircase took the design to another level. 'I'm a perfectionist,' Arun admits. 'I wanted an electronic glass window above the bath – it slides back so you can lie under the stars – and I insisted during the work that the back of the house be lowered another metre. The builders told me I was crazy, but I knew the extra height would create a feeling of grandeur.'

With the tough bit now a dinner party story, the family can kick back and enjoy the impressive result. Arun loves the fact that an open-plan ground floor means all the main action happens on the same level. 'It feels relaxed and modern, comfortable and welcoming – everything we wanted,' he says. Parquet flooring, bare-brick walls, squashy furnishings and the occasional contemporary show stopper all put a unique stamp on the aesthetic. With a mix of three cultures – Indian, German and British – it's inevitable the décor would be a collaboration of influences. Asian artwork nestles next to 20th-century furniture and Scandi knick-knacks (Susanne's home town is near the Danish border). 'We've learned to embrace our backgrounds,' says Arun, smiling. 'The house and our children are products of that.'

So, with Christmas just a blink away, the family are gearing up for their festive marathon. 'It all starts with the German celebrations on the 24th, when it's a custom to eat carp—not my favourite,' says Arun with a grimace. 'Then the children leave out mince pies for Santa's visit on the 25th, followed by curried turkey with my mum a day later. The whole affair is one crazy mash-up... And we wouldn't want it any other way.'

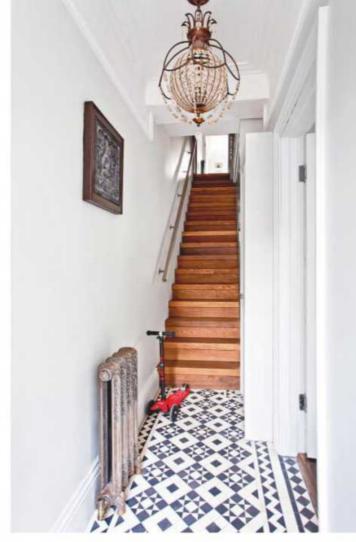
See more of A1 Project Management's work at a1pms.co.uk





'If I had to describe our style, I'd say we're 90 per cent modern and 10 per cent trad'





← INNER LIVING ROOM

'I have a thing for alcoves,' says Arun. 'If you fill them with books and assorted things, they give a home a really nice feeling.'

GET THE LOOK This is a bespoke love seat from Sofa Workshop. The Arrow kilim cushion is by Ferm Living at Holly's House. Find the Agate side table at Graham and Green. The crystal pendants are by Lee Broom at Liberty. This is a Hurricane Drop pendant by Charles Burnand. The Cowboy framed print and the potted faux mimosa are from Abigail Ahern. Source the gold pineapple and cockatoo ornament at Holly's House.

GUEST BATHROOM →

It's all about texture and colour in this light-filled space beneath the eaves, with Moorish-style tiles and exposed brickwork used as a backdrop for the smooth, curvaceous fittings.

GET THE LOOK This is an Agape freestanding bath. Find the Hacienda splashback tiles in Fired Earth's Andalucia collection.

Home truths

WHAT'S AT THE TOP OF YOUR CHRISTMAS WISH LIST? Arun: A few days off, full of peace and joy. Secondly, a new bike. CAN YOU RECALL YOUR FAVOURITE CHILDHOOD CHRISTMAS SHOW? Susanne: Silas, an early-Eighties German TV miniseries based on a Danish children's book. As a small child, Silas is sold to a circus, but decides to live an adventurous life on his own. WHICH FRAGRANCE ARE YOU WEARING TODAY? Arun: L'Homme Sage eau de parfum by Divine. I do like splashing it on... IF YOU COULD LIVE ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD, WHERE WOULD IT BE? Susanne: In the summer, I'd live in Kappeln, the fisherman's town in Germany near the Baltic Sea where I grew up. It's a peaceful place, surrounded by nature. When the summer fades, I'd get back to London; it has so much to offer and never gets boring. WHAT ARE YOU READING AT THE MOMENT? Susanne: The Magic by Rhonda Byrne. It helps me to focus on all the things in my life I can be thankful for.

WHAT'S YOUR EARLIEST MEMORY? Arun: My father looking at me in my pram and seeing the gap in his teeth – at least he was smiling!





← MASTER BEDROOM

Decorative panelling adds period character to the couple's 'designed comfort' ethos.

GET THE LOOK The bedding is from The Linen Works. These are Kangan Arora geometric-design cushions, right and left. The Diagonal Stripe kilim cushion, centre, is by Ferm Living at Holly's House. Find the Bumble side table at Habitat. This is the Gilded Crane Stand from Anthropologie. The flooring is from Cheville Parquet.

SHOWER ROOM ↓→

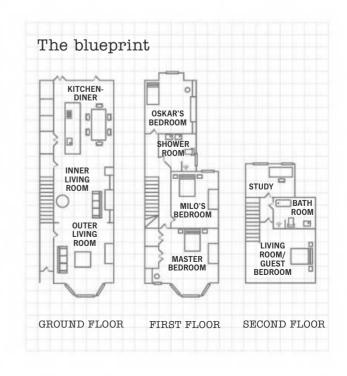
'Of all the rooms, this is the one that most meets our aspirations,' says Arun. The mosaic wall was put together piece by piece on site.

GET THE LOOK This is the Napoleon wall mosaic by Bisazza. It was installed by V-TA Architectural Tiling.











IDEAS toSTEA

Team modernist furniture and geometric designs to update a classic space

KEY SURFACES





FROM LEFT Solid oak parquetry **flooring** in Smoked Weathered Stone, £74.94 per sq m, Fired Earth; Batik patchwork **wall tiles**, £45 per sq m, Topps Tiles; and Cupid ceramic wall tiles, £515 per sq m, Surface View





KEY FEATURE Alcove shelving

Arun and Susanne's mix of relaxed contemporary and classic style is shown to great effect with these recessed alcove shelves in the living room. The couple have filled them with a combination of books and artefacts for a laid-back feel. To highlight this area, downlighters have been installed within the shelves as accent lighting to create a subtle warmth. To replicate the recessed shelving, find a builder at ratedpeople.com. LED downlights can be sourced from screwfix.com, starting at £12.29 each.



4

KEY PRODUCTS





Transform your living room with the gorgeous, vintage inspired Copenhagen range. A quality sofa that'll add a touch of class to any living space. harveysfurniture.co.uk

Copenhagen Sofa in leather from £799, fabric from £719, shown with the Quintrell Large Sideboard in black from £799 and Titan Coffee Table from £449.

Bay Leather Republic

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page116

NEWS

Products and reviews

page119

DESIGN PROFILE

Interior designer Emma Sims Hilditch

page123

PROJECT INSPIRATION

9 stylish solutions for kids' spaces: rooms to bloom in

page136

RANGE COOKERS

Handsome, hot appliances

page137

STYLE CLASSIC

The six-panel front door



Productetc Kitchens and bathrooms

EDITED BY AMY MOOREA WONG



SHOW GLOW

If you're in need of a luxe touch, check out Drummonds's new, vintage-inspired bathroom collection. This hand-blown Double Derwent light is pinched into a pretty bow, creating an elegant yet retro feel. From £570 (drummonds-uk.com)



Agape's Marsiglia tub is shorter than average. but maintains the normal depth so you can enjoy a proper soak even in a modest-sized room. The angular corners mean no centimetre is wasted. There's even space for a shelf along its length.

From £8,148 (westone bathrooms.com)

PERFECTLY POISED

It may look like a gleaming

piece of sculpture, but Porcelanosa's Lounge bath/ shower fitting does more than just please the eye. Conceived by Simone Micheli, this all-in-one element controls the faucet and showerhead with two tiny, blink-and-you'll-missthem levers. Perch it on the edge of your bath for a unique feature. From £1,796.64 (porcelanosa.com)



MAKING A SPLASH

British Ceramic Tile has collaborated with Ted Baker to create a glass tile range in the fashion company's signature style. Pick of the bunch is this ArTile floral design, which at 600 x 750mm can be used as a standalone splashback - its dark moody flowers will surely encourage people to lend a hand with the washing up. £250 (britishceramictile.com)



RICH FLAVOUR

Coffee just got colourful thanks to Bialetti and its newly updated stovetop pots. The iconic Moka Express is now available in a vibrant blue, purple and orange, as well as this red - guaranteed to give you an additional kick of energy alongside that caffeine. What a smooth, stylish blend. Moka Color 6 Cup, £40 (debenhams.com)

Productetc

Lifestyle and tech



With the look of an open fireplace minus the burning-a-hole-in-the-rug potential, Morsø's S-160-32 insert stove is pretty and practical. Transparent on three sides, it offers a panoramic view of dancing flames, elegantly enclosed in glass – think a warmed-up version of a snow globe. From £5,050 (morsoe.com)



WHITE LIGHT

We've seen baubles filled with feathers and snow-covered worlds, but John Lewis has upped the ante with its fibre-optic spray. One flick of a switch and it's aglow with light that morphs through all the colours of the rainbow. \$8 (johnlewis.com)



Yes, it's cold outside, but you'll barely notice with Iconic Radiators' new Serie T collection. Highly energy efficient – they need far less hot water due to their large surface area – they can also house walnut shelves to stash towels or bathrobes. Double vertical radiators, from £2,767 each (iconicradiators.co.uk)



Keep an eye on your belongings wherever you are with Canary. Having secreted the device on to a shelf, you can stream real-time video and audio via an app on your phone (automatic night vision, of course), get motion alerts and – should the worst come to the worst – set off a siren or directly contact the police. £159 (canary.is)



BAND AID

Start your new year health kick by investing in a Jawbone UP3 activity tracker. New measuring features include resting heart rate and REM sleep. The trackers look good too, courtesy of tech designer-of-the-moment Yves Béhar. £129.99 each (jawbone.com)



Dry skin? Tickly cough? It could all be down to the water content in the air around you. Dyson's Humidifier measures and re-balances the moisture in the local atmosphere with a bacteria-free gentle mist. Oh, and come summer it doubles as a fan so you can breathe easy all year round. £499.99 (dyson.co.uk)





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A LIFE IN DESIGN

EMMA SIMS HILDITCH

The designer on the tricks she picked up in the film biz, her inspirations and why creating a home for George Clooney would be her dream job



ombining a clean, fresh, neutral colour palette and emphasis on natural, earthy materials, Emma Sims Hilditch brings the same elegant, understated approach to a city townhouse as she does a country retreat. In the business for two decades, her design practice is based just outside Bath and she's also the creative director of home lifestyle brand Neptune. Here, she shares her design secrets...

How did you get started in interior design?

I'm the great-granddaughter of a Royal Academician and my mother had a flair for interiors, so I grew up immersed in a world of art, architecture and design. I started my career, though, with a business degree and a job in film production, working with Ridley Scott. It was a great way not only to learn all about

light, colour and detail, but also how to organise design on a large scale, juggling crews, locations and set. In 1995, I set up my own interior design practice. My first big commission was a manor house for a family with eight children!

How do people describe your style?

My interiors have been variously described as 'radiating palpable tranquillity' and a 'breezy 21st-century take on English countryside style'. Creating areas of light and shade is one of the most important aspects of my designs – I like to use a lot of fresh colours, natural materials such as wood, stone and linen, then mix in just a hint of metallics and mirror to reflect light.

What makes a timeless interior?

It's about getting the bones of the space right – solid stone and wood flooring sets the whole foundation for a scheme. I love wide, engineered oak boards, which work well with underfloor heating. For quick, affordable updates, I use bursts of colour as a finishing touch, which can then be easily changed or added to in layers with soft furnishings and seasonal decorations.

What are your top tips for success?

Get the lighting right. Think in advance about the infrastructure for wiring, so you can accommodate low-, mid- and high-level lighting. A proper pigment paint is essential, otherwise you never get the right texture on walls. I like to use Little Greene's Slaked Lime and Neptune's Silver Birch on woodwork, Driftwood on walls and, for a cosy scheme, Neptune's Moss on panelling.

Do you have any unusual design ideas?

I like to team a woollen chair with cotton velvet piping. Panelling and moulding can be modern too, giving depth and interest to a room. Round mirrors create an unusual effect and lend a more contemporary feel. Half-height panelling on walls or tongue-and-groove used on a ceiling can really change a room – this is a great trick with pitched ceilings in an attic, rather than using simple plaster.

What inspires you?

I look for inspiration wherever I am, whether it's the beautiful Cotswolds countryside or a smart design hotel. Every country gives me different ideas too – I particularly love the Belgian style, understated, elegant and natural in its approach. Axel Vervoordt is a master of design; so too Marco Meneguzzi.

How do you start a new project?

I look at the interior architecture, the context, the history of the house to inspire what I'll do next. Not doing this can make it all go wrong – an old castle with purple padded walls won't work, it needs to be sympathetic, with materials that don't date. Rooms must always have form and function – sofas must be comfortable, chairs can't wobble – because whether it's a home, a hotel or a restaurant, people are at the heart of every design and my interiors are for living in.

How do you marry the old with the new?

When we designed the restaurant at Calcot Manor in the Cotswolds, we broke down the traditional barriers between kitchen, restaurant and bar to create an airy and vibrant interior space, but remained sensitive to the building's impressive seven-century history by ensuring the restoration work reflected the original spirit of every stone and beam.

How does the location influence the end design? I recently decorated a house in Cornwall and puzzled a lot over how to create a contemporary British seaside feel without going overboard on nautical or ocean references. I put the hues of sea and sky, with watery blues and sandy neutrals to one side, and spent a long time looking at the landscape, where I discovered a whole other range of colours, from rich, chocolaty browns to hints of orangey-pink. I finished it off with chunky woven textures and contemporary furniture in glass and metal to bring in an element of reflection, just like the sea glinting in the sun.

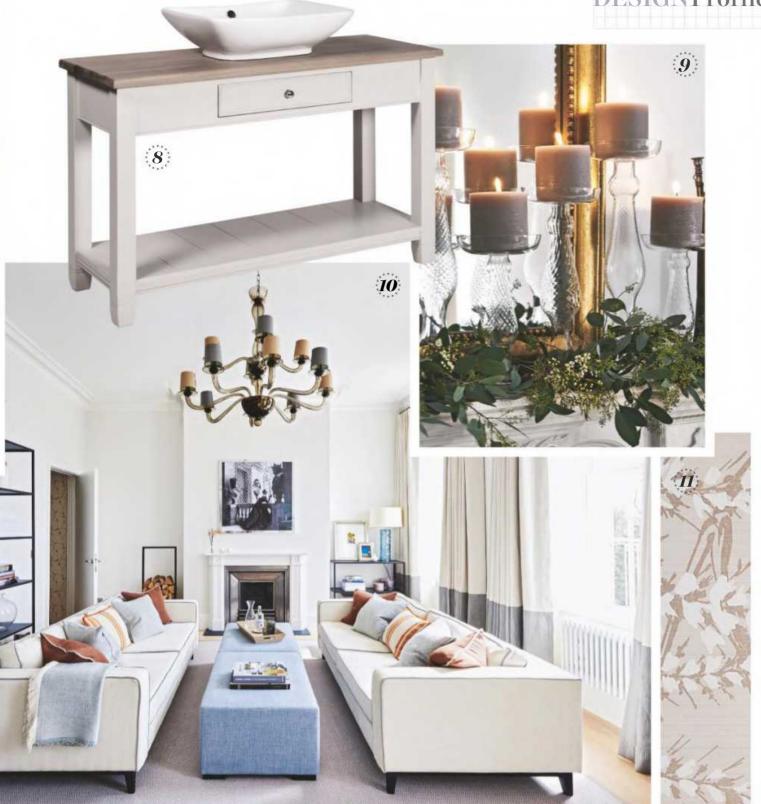
What's up next?

We're working on the refurbishment of a Grade II-listed family house in Wiltshire, the former family home of Laura Ashley in North Wales and an exciting hotel project in central London.

And if there was one house you could design?
I'd love to try to charm George Clooney into moving to Wiltshire. He's always so elegantly dressed, I like to think I could design a home that suits his suave, old-school Hollywood lifestyle.

See more of Emma's work at simshilditch.com





8 Chicester large countertop open washstand in Old Chalk, £895, Neptune 9 Highbury glass candlesticks, from £22 each; and Blyton pillar candles in Mist, £7 each, Neptune 10 In this Sims Hilditch revamped Grade II-listed house in Bath, Emma teamed luxe textures, statement pieces and subtle colour with sleek lines to create an ultramodern family home 11 Emma loves this nature-inspired Wisteria wallpaper in Sepia, £125 per 9.5m roll, Knowles & Christou

'Whether it's a home, a hotel or a restaurant, people are at the heart of every design and my interiors are for living in'

LIVINGetc PROMOTION

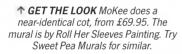




To create your own dream bathroom in just a few clicks, visit villeroyboch.com/bathroom-inspiration



Make-believe play is a crucial feature of a child's emotional development. Magical figures and mythical landscapes will inspire storytelling and develop your child's imagination, so choose plenty of whimsical stimulation with pictorial wallpaper and murals. If you're planning on painting your own, 'Don't overcomplicate – sometimes a simple design says enough,' advises Carolyn Jane, founder of Canadian decorating firm Roll Her Sleeves Painting. It's worth investing in good-quality products – premium paint dries quickly, so you can layer faster. As for furnishings, mix modern and vintage pieces for a timeless, ethereal feel and enliven a humdrum ceiling with fairy lights and pompoms.



GET THE LOOK This is Les Bidules → wallpaper, £100.80 per 10m roll, by Gaël Davrinche for Pierre Frey. The Stockholm rug, £100, is from Ikea. Paper Lanterns UK stocks lanterns in a variety of colours, from £1.60 each.



SMART STORAGE

- Clear, lightweight boxes are great for toys and games and can easily be moved from room to room. Or use colour coding as a visual reminder of where things go.
- Open shelving will motivate kids to create displays of their favourite things. Hang shelves at different levels to maximise space and leave room on the floor to play.
- For flexible wardrobe storage, go for modular systems that can be rearranged to accommodate larger clothing and different types of accessories as the children grow.
- In a toddler's room, safeguard against climbing accidents by ensuring cupboards and shelves are securely fixed to the walls.
- Bespoke cabinetry is ideal for utilising every inch of space, while integrated storage solutions, such as drawers beneath the bed, will provide a home for bulkier items.

GET THE LOOK Funky Little Darlings → can create a similar bed and storage unit for £5,000. Lesters Nursery World does white storage boxes on wheels, £84.75 each.

◆ GET THE LOOK Chunky Reclaimed Furniture sells similar wood desks, from £240 each. Try Pamono for vintage school chairs, £294 for a set of four.



H

3. THE ORGANISER

It's never too early to encourage your children to clear up their belongings – kids like to take charge, so let them. 'Tidying up can be an enjoyable game, when, for example, it entails parking wheelie boxes in their play zone,' says Ashlyn Gibson, author of *Creative Children's Spaces*. If a child feels responsible for their own space, they will be more inclined to keep it neat, so involve them in deciding where their treasures are to be housed. Maintain storage at their level to ensure it is used and work together with them to decorate boxes, design labels and choose user-friendly containers.

PROJECTInspiration

All kids want to escape the grown-ups and kick up some noise and this crash pad by Brooklyn-based Chango & Co was designed with functionality and multiple playmates in mind. 'Instead of a pull-out sofa, we utilised the floor space, installing custom-made mattresses that can be made up into beds for sleepovers,' says designer Susana Simonpietri. Faux wallpaper is bang on trend – removable wall stickers are a budget-friendly way to pimp up a room, so it can easily be updated as the youngster's taste changes, while the timber swing seats are an indulgent touch providing hours of fun.

◆ GET THE LOOK Vinyl Impression does Little Cross wall stickers, £15 for a pack of 100. For a similar tepee, try Molly Meg, £129. Bobo Kids stocks a great selection of kids' cushions. Make Me Something Special creates round wood swings like this, from £149 each.

FAMILY-FRIENDLY SURFACES

- Nice carpet doesn't always survive nice children. Instead, go for rubber or hard-wearing vinyl flooring, which is cheap, warm and easy to keep clean. Try The Colour Flooring Company for a variety of options.
- Timber flooring is both durable and practical, with a level surface well suited to building blocks and toys on wheels. It can also be painted with bright colours or motifs.
- 'Washable rugs are great for kids' spaces,' says Amanda Short, founder and director of children's furniture specialist Nubie.
- · 'Surfaces that might get stained by handling, such as wardrobe fronts, should be sealed with a varnish, so they can be wiped



GET THE LOOK Find chalkboard paint, > £11.99 for 750ml, at Homebase. These are Artek's Stool 60 by Alvar Aalto, from £170 each. Dowsing & Reynolds sells a pendant light like this for approx £69.99.

■ GET THE LOOK Check out Alexander & Pearl for an industrial-style console table, from £550. Find pink masking at Bureau Direct, £2.50.



Whether they're at the mini-blogger age or still experimenting with crayons, kids love getting creative. 'I find children's furniture can be a bit small, so we often use adult furniture and cut the legs down,' says Jane Bonsor, textile designer and founder of Korla. 'A long console table can run against a wall as a permanent area that isn't tidied away, so projects can be started and left to develop.' Practical finishes and wipe-clean surfaces are a must for deflecting splashes and spills and ensure there's plenty of storage and room for display. You could showcase finished artwork or encourage the child to develop an inspirational moodboard out of images of things they like.





↑ GET THE LOOK Find similar stools at Next Home. Fabrics & Papers sells a mid-blue, plain denim fabric, from £42 per m. The six-arm Zig Zag floor lamp by Jean-Louis Domecq for Jieldé, £543, is from Made in Design.

'House shapes are a popular trend for little girls' rooms and it's easy to see why,' says Room to Bloom's Ursula Wesselingh. 'A symbol of warmth and security, they create a child-sized home within a home.' A basic house structure will give multiple options for decoration and play and can be transformed from den to shop and beyond with the addition of simple props. Be flexible when choosing a colour palette for the space – your little one may have her heart set on a candy hue, but compromise with an off-shade that won't date quickly or look too harsh; blush is a sophisticated alternative to pink.

↑ GET THE LOOK For unpainted wood bed frames, from £114.99 for a small double, see the range at Wayfair. Little Greene's Green Verditer eggshell, £53 for 2.51, is a match.

GET THE LOOK To locate a builder to > construct a similar house-shaped structure, try findacraftsman.com. Paper pompoms are available from Pom Pom Studio, from 85p each. For a similar rag rug, £13.95, check out Paper High at notonthehighstreet.com.



PROJECTInspiration

COLOUR COORDINATION

- If you can't make up your mind, start with a piece of art, bed linen or furniture and pick out the colours to build your scheme.
- 'Decide on your colour theme and work this when you buy things for the room,' says Korla's Jane Bonser. 'If the palette is quite restrained, there will be a sense of balance despite the mishmash of toys!'
- Wallpaper is a brilliant way to add impact to a space, with pattern being particularly forgiving of scuffs and scrapes.
- The monochrome trend is both classic and cool and an increasingly popular choice in a child's room. It will also fit in seamlessly with the décor in the rest of your house.

GET THE LOOK Homebase sells → easy-to-peel masking tape, £3.99. The Big Cata cushion covers are by Roberta Roller Rabbit in New York, approx £32 each. Try Korla for similar fabric. Source an indoor basketball stand, £129.99, at Big Game Hunters.

◆ GET THE LOOK MK Kids Interiors could create a similar climbing apparatus for £5,050. Find climbing stones at wickey. com, from £14.95 for a set of five.



8. THE SPORTS STAR

No outside space? No problem! Kids can quite literally climb the walls with all manner of indoor play structures, which, when safely fixed to the surface, leave plenty of floor space for everything else. On a less Olympian scale, lay temporary courts with tape that can be easily removed without damage to the floor, stencil locker-room numbers on to wardrobe doors and choose sturdy indoor sports equipment with a heavy-duty base to keep accidents at bay.

£229. Goodwin & Goodwin does light-up Marquee letters, £245 per character.





If your little one is as excited by Pucci as they are by Peppa Pig, you might want to upscale their wardrobe area so they can select their own outfits. A simple open closet is the perfect indulgence for any mini fashionista and will grow with them as their taste matures. 'Daywear and dress-up clothes don't always have to be put away in closets or trunks. You can hang up some of your prettiest pieces as decoration on the wall,' says Courtney Adamo, co-founder of online boutique portal Babyccino Kids. A low shelving unit for shoes can double up as a seat, where first-timers can practise putting footwear on.

LIVINGetcPROMOTION



MAGIC MOMENTS

To deliver a memorable and stylish Christmas, look no further than your nearest Dobbies Garden Centre

y now, you're no doubt right in the middle of the great festive build-up, with a long list of gifts to buy, food to order and decorations to hang. With time in such short supply, it's worth knowing there's one place where you can get hold of everything you need to make Christmas special for your family, in one fell swoop. That place is your nearest Dobbies, which has so much more than you'd usually expect to find at your local garden centre.

From real firs, twinkly fairy lights and a huge range of exclusive decorations to last-minute gifts and seasonal food, Dobbies is your one-stop shop for all things Christmas. This year, Dobbies has put a contemporary twist on the red and

silver palette, traditionally associated with the festive season. Its stunning 'Retro Red' theme sees the introduction of aqua highlights, which bring a modern feel to an otherwise classic yuletide look.

The Dobbies Christmas range boasts a fantastic array of unique and exclusive designs, including beautiful ribbed baubles, stylish orb droplets and charming 3-D cloche baubles. These are pieces you'll want to add to your family's collection of decorations and treasure for many years to come.

For a new take on Christmas that your family will love, there's really only one place that has Christmas Delivered – your nearest Dobbies Garden Centre.



For more ideas on getting your home ready for Christmas, visit your nearest Dobbies Garden Centre or see **dobbies.com/christmas**





Visit furnitureetc.co.uk



DESIGNShopping



THE ARTIST

Cooking is a creative endeavour, so why shouldn't your equipment reflect your style? If this design is a little too exuberant, you can use the bespoke Colourange service to match it seamlessly to your kitchen cabinets, or make it a standout feature. RC-10TG-WY-JP dual-fuel range cooker in Multi, £3,699, Britannia at John Lewis



THE GLAMOURPUSS

Bring a little shimmer to your kitchen with this classic cooker complete with hob and rapidresponse oven. Though it has all the appeal of a traditional range, the good news is that you don't need a huge space to house it. Classic 90 electric induction range cooker in White with brass trim, £1,800, Rangemaster





THE ALL-ACTION HERO

Featuring a double oven with eight functions and six gas burners, this beauty can do everything bar serve up the food. A chic, stainless-steel finish makes it simple to slot into most schemes, while looking totally professional. A2-8 dual-fuel range cooker, £1,949, Smeg



THE MACHO MACHINE

For fans of all things sleek and techie, this cooker includes an induction hob for fast heating and easy cleaning, as well as all the benefits of a classic range. Cookmaster CK100C210K electric range cooker in Black,

£1,399.99, Leisure



THE PRO

Rustle up a Michelin-star feast with the help of this multifunctional range. It has a warming drawer with variable temperature controls, which is great if you're catering for a crowd, plus it looks super-slick. OR120DDWGFX2 dual-fuel range cooker, £2,299.99, Fisher & Paykel

Range cookers

THE EDITED CHOICE

Maximise your culinary skills with these smart, multifunctional appliances

Research - Jessica Latapie



THE BIG INVESTMENT

The fab French top (an extended griddle in the middle) helps control the temperature of multiple pans - from high heat to the gentlest simmer - plus the robust red controls and cobalt blue interior add a touch of cool quirkiness.

ICBDF484F dual-fuel range cooker with French top, £17,880, Wolf



THE CLASSIC

A long-time favourite in country schemes, the Aga is increasingly appearing in style-conscious urban homes. Its cast-iron body helps lock moisture and flavour into food and, as it comes in a range of colours, you can now add a contemporary twist to this kitchen stalwart.

Two-oven electric range cooker in Dark Blue, £6,295, Aga

Six-panel door

Designer Various.

Background There are front doors and then there are front doors! Look at our most famous, number 10 - classically Georgian with six panels and a fanlight window on top. Only ever deviating from its black-gloss appearance once in 300 years (it was an 'unlucky' green hue when Herbert Asquith was prime minister), it's a shining example of how a classic stands the test of time. The panelling look came about as much for decoration as to give a sturdy impression – the six-panel format was thought to look especially solid. Renaissance-style columns and other decorative flourishes were also added to really pack a punch. If your door has only four panels and glass features, it's more likely to be Victorian - glazing was introduced to let more light into the hallway, with beautiful detail taking precedence over a secure appearance. And if yours features bells and whistles, such as stained glass and leading, you can thank the Edwardians, the generation that liked to show off a little. Whatever style you've got, if you want to funk it up, a lick of on-trend paint should do the job. We hear Farrow & Ball's Downpipe is a pretty popular hu

Details For a classic six-panel design like this one, vis





Planning a Chrimbo shopping jaunt? Check into one of these glamorous bolt holes

Words – Louise Sugrue, Suzanne Imre, Steven Efstathiou and Jessica Latapie

hether you're a lackadasical, last-minute kind of Christmas shopper or a very-much-sorted bargainista, there's nothing like a quick city shop hop for bagging a few special gifts for your loved ones – and okay, let's admit it, some hard-earned treats for you too.

With power purchasing foremost in our mind, **Livingetc** has selected four recently opened hot-spot hotels in the world's ultimate shopping meccas – Paris's Hôtel Fabric, around the revamped Place de la République; the Mandarin Oriental in Milan's ultra-cool fashionista district; The New York Edition, a stone's throw from the high-end emporia on Fifth Avenue; and the latest Zetter Townhouse in London's villagey Marylebone.

While we can't guarantee you'll find *all* the presents on your list, we're pretty confident you'll have a darn good time trying...

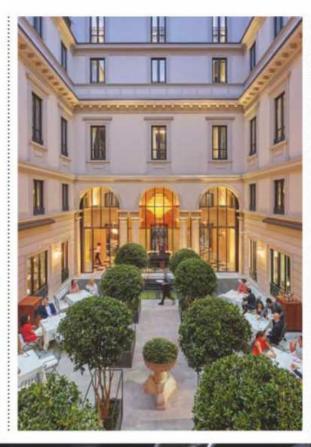
HOTEL FABRIC, Paris

THE LOWDOWN A warehouse conversion in the trendy Oberkampf district. BEST FOR Foodies and vintage style hunters with a penchant for bar hopping. Paris's fast-gentrifying 11th arrondissement, as featured in the film Amélie, is a fab mix of waterways, quirky boutiques, theatres and gourmet bistros. Whether you're into retro fashion, furniture, vinyl or gluten-free pastries, Hôtel Fabric makes a great shopping base, with the vibrant Marais and Canal St-Martin districts all minutes' walk away. A former textile factory, the hotel's high ceilings, bare brick walls and exposed pipes pay tribute to its industrial past, while a mix of design classics, flea-market finds and lush textiles keeps things eclectically luxe. Each of the 33 bedrooms comes with a cool cement-tiled bathroom and L'Occitane products. There's no restaurant, but its delicious buffet breakfasts set you up perfectly for a shopathon. Plus, you can't go far without walking into a yum eaterie in this neighbourhood. BOOK IT Double rooms from approx £120 (hotelfabric.com).

MANDARIN ORIENTAL, Milan
THE LOWDOWN An über-glamorous escape in Europe's most fashionable city. BEST FOR Living the dream – if only for a weekend.

Shopping in heels is actually a possibility at the MO Milan, thanks to its prime central location, a three-minute, elegant totter from via Montenapoleone, Milan's chicest shopping street. And when you've done with all the Versaces and Pradas on your doorstep, then this hotel is the ultimate luxury crash pad. Converted from four historic buildings, with a nod to Thirties Milanese interiors, it features Antonio Citteriodesigned bedrooms, the city's bar of the moment and a died-and-gone-to-heaven spa (thanks to the MO's Asian heritage, those massages are something else). **Livingetc** loved the Pañpuri products in the bathroom and the bar's lobster and burrata focaccia (yes, we ate bread in the city of fashion), but our favourite moment had to be the banquet-style breakfast in the alfresco courtyard (so good, we didn't care it was November). The perfect start for another day's serious handbag shopping! BOOK IT Double rooms from £563 (mandarinoriental.com/milan)









THE NEW YORK EDITION, New York THE LOWDOWN Ian Schrager's revamp of an original Manhattan icon.

BEST FOR Lovers of pared-back luxury who like to be inclusive *not* exclusive. Madison Avenue may once have been synonymous with *Mad Men*-style ad execs, but today, it's one of the hippest shopping streets in NYC, with the likes of Tory Burch, Saks, J Crew and Kate Spade New York all on your doorstep. So where better to stay than the 273-room New York Edition, which occupies the former Metropolitan Life Tower overlooking Madison Square Park? Totally transformed inside, the hotel boasts sumptuous suites dressed in chic shades of taupe – just the thing to calm you down after competing with the throngs outside - Michelinstarred chef Jason Atherton's The Clocktower restaurant (serving 'tavern food', such as stewed lamb and roasted Dover sole) and a billiards room, as well as the usual spa and gym. The atmosphere is cool, but not overbearing, so if you happen to see the Beckhams walking in with armfuls of shopping, or sipping 'crafted' cocktails at one of the hotel's bars, try not to stare, okay?

BOOK IT Doubles from approx £510 (editionhotels.com).



CLOCKWISE FROM THIS PICTURE One of The New York Edition's Deluxe rooms – 400sq ft of pure luxury; the curvaceous staircase leading up to the restaurant from the hotel's lobby; and plenty of drinks to choose from in the lobby bar



THE ZETTER TOWNHOUSE, London

THE LOWDOWN A Georgian townhouse oozing quirky charisma. BEST FOR Antiques magpies with a taste for shopping and a good cocktail. Enter the 'residence' of Wicked Uncle Seymour – the charming fictitious rake who inspired the Zetter Group's latest opening in Marylebone. The listed Georgian townhouse, a stone's throw from London's shopaholic hot spots, has been revamped by designer Russell Sage and now boasts 24 rooms, including a loft apartment and cocktail lounge that greets you straight off the street. Restored antiques, rich colours and heritage textiles are accessorised with quirky finds from Seymour's imaginary travels around Europe and gambling exploits. The cocktail menu is equally creative, including the Köln martini, which comes with a bottle of aromatics (Seymour's 'cologne') that the bartender pipettes into your drink. Light bites such as the Scotch Egg and House Toastie are further nods to the quintessentially British vibe. It's like stepping into an eccentric, booze-loving relative's front room... BOOK IT Doubles from £215 (thezettergroup.com).





ENTERTAININGetc

Juniper and sherry-pickled pears

Makes 12

- 11 water
- 180ml sherry vinegar
- 500ml Pedro Ximénez sberry
- 330g caster sugar
- peel of 1 orange
- 2 star anise
- · 4 fresh bay leaves
- 2 teaspoons juniper berries, crushed
- 12 mini pears, peeled
- Place the water, vinegar, sherry, sugar, orange peel, star anise, bay leaves and juniper berries in a large saucepan over a high heat. Bring to the boil and stir to dissolve the sugar. Add the pears, cover with a round of non-stick baking paper and top with a small lid to submerge the pears. Reduce the heat to low and cook for 20 minutes, or until the pears are just tender.
- Set aside to cool for 5 minutes. Carefully remove the pears from the pickling liquid and set aside. Return the liquid to a high heat and cook for 10 minutes, or until slightly reduced. Pour over the pears and refrigerate until cold. The pears will keep in their pickling liquid in the fridge for up to 5 days.

Prune and smoked almond loaf

Makes 2

- 250g plain flour, plusextrafor dusting
- 250g wholemeal flour
- 3 teaspoons bicarbonate of soda
- 1 teaspoon table salt • 215g smoked
- almonds
- 170g pitted prunes, chopped
- 80ml maple syrup
- 375ml buttermilk • 125ml muscat
- Preheat the oven to 200°C/gas mark 6. Lightly grease and flour 2 x 11 loaf tins and set aside. Place the flours, bicarbonate of soda, salt, 110g of the almonds and the prunes in a large bowl and mix to combine. Make a well in the centre, add the maple syrup, buttermilk and muscat and mix to form a sticky dough. Divide the dough in half and place in the prepared tins. Chop the remaining almonds and press into the top of the loaves. Dust with the extra flour and bake for 40 minutes, or until cooked through and dark golden*. Allow to cool in the tins for 5 minutes, transfer to a wire rack and allow to cool completely.
- *Tap the base of the bread if it sounds hollow, it's ready





Mini roasted duck and port pies

Makes 30

- 100g quince paste, chopped
- 60ml bort
- sea salt and freshly ground black pepper
- 240g shredded roasted duck, chopped*
- 1 tablespoon sherry vinegar
- 1 egg, lightly beaten
- thyme sprigs, to serve FOR THE HOT-WATER PASTRY
- 300g unsalted butter, chopped
- 330ml water
- 750g plain flour
- 1 teaspoon table salt

- Place the quince paste, port and salt and pepper in a medium saucepan over a medium heat and stir until the paste has dissolved. Add the duck and cook for 3 minutes. Add the vinegar and mix to combine. Spread the mixture on a baking tray lined with non-stick baking paper and refrigerate for 10 minutes, or until cold.
- Preheat the oven to 200°C/gas mark 6. To make the hot-water pastry, place the butter and water in a saucepan over a high heat and bring to the boil. Remove from the heat, add the flour and salt and stir until a smooth dough forms.
- Turn the dough out on to a lightly floured surface and knead until smooth and elastic. Divide into 4 pieces and roll out each portion between 2 sheets of non-stick baking paper to 2mm thick. Using a 5½ cm square cookie cutter, lightly press the cutter into 2 sheets of the pastry to mark squares at 2cm intervals. Spoon 1 teaspoon of the duck filling into the centre of each square and flatten slightly. Brush around each square with the egg and cover with the remaining pastry sheets. Press around each square to seal. Use the cutter to cut out squares around the filling and gently press the edges to seal.
- Place the pies on two large baking trays lined with non-stick baking paper. Using a small, serrated knife, cut a cross into the top of each pie and brush with the egg. Roll out the remaining pastry and repeat the process until you have approximately 30 filled pies. Bake for 15 minutes, or until the pastry is golden. Top each pie with a sprig of thyme to serve.
- *You can buy ready-roasted duck from specialist Asian supermarkets.

Spiced apple martinis

Serves 8

- 750ml apple juice
- 75g caster sugar
- 10 thyme sprigs
- 1 teaspoon juniper berries, lightly crushed
- peel of 1 lemon
- 2 star anise
- 250ml vodka
- 125ml dry vermouth
- 60ml lemon juice
- 1 cup ice cubes
- dried apples, to serve
- Place the apple juice, sugar, thyme, juniper berries, lemon peel and star anise in a medium saucepan over a high heat and bring to the boil. Cook for 15 minutes. Strain, discard the herbs and refrigerate until cold.
- To serve, combine the apple syrup, vodka, vermouth, lemon juice and ice and stir until cold. Strain into 8 glasses and top with the dried apple.





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158 Bathrooms

157 Beds & Bedding

158 Bedroom Furniture

158 Blinds

157 Clocks

159 Doors

160 Fires/Fireplaces

155 Floor Coverings

151 Furniture

157 Gifts

157 Heating & Radiators

157 Home Furnishings

160 Home Improvements

155 Home Interiors

160 Kitchens Accessories

161 Kitchens

157 Shutters

160 Storage

156 Window Stylings





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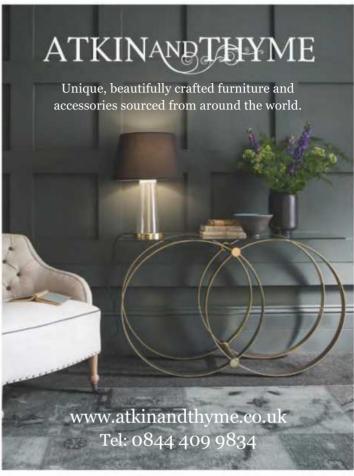






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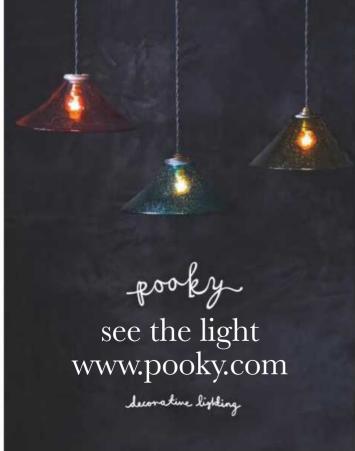






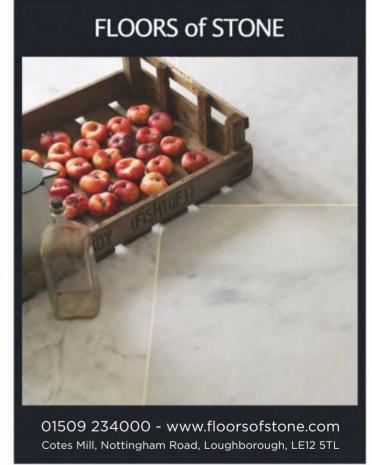






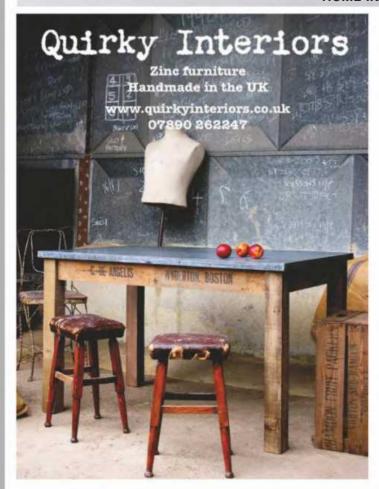
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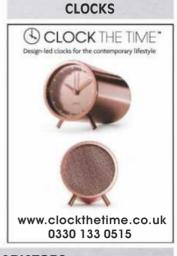
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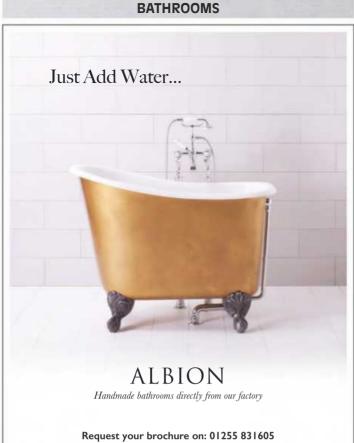
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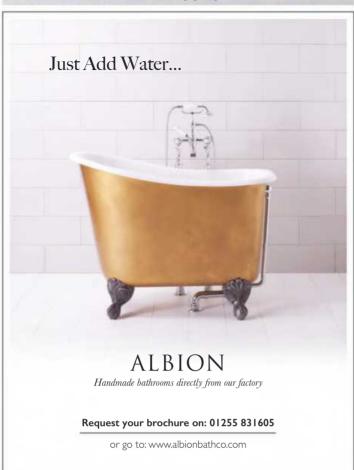


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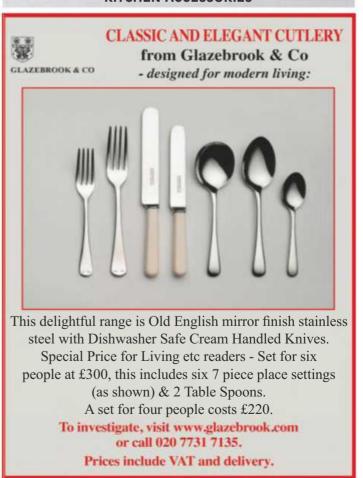
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